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This Week's Line Up

goal! Weekly

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Celtic End Oz Tour
With Victory

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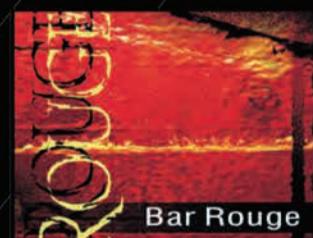
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Sukha Leaves Victory

Melbourne Victory Football Club wishes to confirm that defender Surat Sukha has been released with immediate effect and will join Thai club, Buriram PEA, after a transfer was negotiated with the Bangkok based club.

Sukha, 28, was given permission to return home to Thailand on compassionate grounds.

The Thailand international made 36 appearances over his two seasons in the Hyundai A-League and another 5 in the clubs most recent AFC Champions League campaign – the same competition which first brought him to Melbourne Victory's attention in 2008.

Melbourne Victory Coach, Mehmet Durakovic, said, "We'd like to thank Surat for his tremendous contribution over the past two seasons and wish him well in the future.

"Surat was hugely popular among the playing group and very quickly became an important part of our set-up due to his competitive nature and versatility at both the left and right-hand side of defence.

"The massive cultural differences between Thailand and Australia made it difficult for his family to settle here in Melbourne, and as a result we reluctantly agreed to transfer him to Buriram PEA." Durakovic added.

Sukha, who farewelled his former team mates after this morning's training session, thanked the club for their support, "I enjoyed my time at Melbourne Victory, but it was in the best interests of my family that I return home to Thailand.

"I made some very good friends here in Melbourne and I wish the club every success in the future," he added.



Robbie Fowler and Surat Sukha will reacquaint themselves in the Thai league next season. Photo: ANITA MILAS

BARBAROUSES DEPARTS

Brisbane Roar can confirm striker Kosta Barbarouses has signed for Russian First Division club FC Alania Vladikavkaz on a three-year contract.

Barbarouses has been trialling with the Russian outfit and terms were agreed between the clubs for an undisclosed fee for the young New Zealand international's services late this week.

The transfer is effective immediately.

Brisbane Roar Head Coach Ange Postecoglou said he would have preferred to see Barbarouses stay at least another season in the Hyundai A-League but believed the chance to play in Europe was a great opportunity.

"We're definitely disappointed to see Kosta leave the club, he was an important part of our team," Postecoglou said.

"I would have liked for him to stay another season to further his development."

"That was not to be, I'm sure Kosta will be a great asset to his new club and we wish him the best of luck."

"Our club policy is to identify young talent, help them to develop their game within our team structure and enable them to further their careers."

Barbarouses' new club will take part in the qualifying rounds of



From Russia With Love: Kosta Barbarouses swaps the sunshine of Brisbane for the snow of Siberia. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

this season's Europa League having made the Russian Cup final against CSKA Moscow.

CSKA had already qualified for European competition, enabling Alania to secure a qualifying berth regardless of the result.

Alania lost the final 2-1 in May and are currently second in the Russian First Division after 19

matches.

Postecoglou said he was confident he could find a suitable replacement for the Barbarouses.

"I've obviously known about this possibility for a little while now, so we've already got some things in place to find a replacement," he said.

U20 World Cup Squad Announced

Qantas Young Socceroos Head Coach Jan Versleijen announced his 21-player squad that will represent Australia at the FIFA U-20 World Cup Colombia 2011 which will be played from 29 July to 20 August.

Sixteen members of current squad were part of the Qantas Young Socceroos squad that were runner's up to DPR Korea at the AFC U-19 Championships last year, whilst a further five of those members, Tommy Oar, Kofi Danning, Ben Kantarovski, Rhyan Grant and Sam Gallagher, were also part of the Australian squad that competed at the FIFA U-20 World Cup Egypt 2009.

Fifteen players have been drawn from the ranks of the Hyundai A-League, with four from overseas clubs and two players, former Sunderland striker Matthew Fletcher and former Sheffield United goalkeeper Lawrence Thomas, currently uncontracted.

After a long and exhaustive selection process, Versleijen believes that the squad he has selected will be ready to perform when the tournament begins at the end of the month.

"I am very happy with the final selection and it is good to have the majority of the squad back together that did so well at the AFC Championships last year," said Versleijen.

"It is also good to see that since last October the majority of the players have progressed to the starting line-ups of their respective Hyundai A-League or overseas based clubs.

"It is very exciting that the tournament is so close and we will use our training camp in Denver, where we will play two friendly matches against quality opposition, to finalise our preparations,"

concluded Versleijen.

Football Federation Australia National Technical Director, Han Berger, was also confident that the squad selected will be able to perform well at the tournament.

"The FIFA U-20 World Cup is an important tournament for the development of professional footballers which sees the world's best players in this age group compete at the highest level," said Berger.

"With this in mind, and though we are very optimistic about our prospects, it is important for us all to have realistic expectations for the team as a result."

"In putting together this squad we have had to make some concessions to secure the services of a number of overseas based players through negotiation with their respective clubs, but we believe that these concessions will not have a significant impact on the squad's preparation for the tournament."

"Through the selection process, we were disappointed to learn that two players, Brent McGrath and Steven Lustica, declined our invitation for selection, as they both made themselves unavailable."

"I am sure that the players who have been selected will seize the opportunity to do themselves and Australia proud on the world stage," concluded Berger.

The Qantas Young Socceroos will hold a farewell function in Sydney at the end of the week before travelling to the USA on Saturday for a pre-tournament camp in Denver, Colorado where they will play friendly matches against fellow World Cup finalists the Korea Republic (20 July) and England (22 July).

The Qantas Young Socceroos will then move to their base camp in the Colombian city of Manizales,

situated 2,180m above sea-level, where they will be based the first phase of the tournament.

The Qantas Young Socceroos will play their first match of the tournament against Ecuador on Sunday 31 July, and then face Costa Rica on Wednesday 3 August before their final group match against Spain on Saturday 6 August.

The top two teams from each of the groups and the four third placed teams with the highest number of points will then progress to the round of 16 (9 & 10 August). The Quarter-Finals will be played on 13 & 14 August, Semi-Finals on 17 August with the Final and 3rd/4th place play-off on Saturday 20 August.

The Qantas Young Socceroos qualified for the FIFA U-20 World Cup having made the final of the AFC U19 Youth Championships in Zibo, China last year.

The Qantas Young Socceroos matches and the Semi-Finals and Final of the FIFA U-20 World Cup Colombia 2011 will be broadcast live on SBS TV.

U20 Squad

Matthew ACTON (gk)	Roar
Mustafa AMINI	Mariners
Terry ANTONIS	Sydney FC
Jake BARKER-DAISH	Gold Coast
Mark BIRIGHITTI (gk)	Adelaide Utd
Kerem BULUT	Mlada (Czech)
Kofi DANNING	Roar
Matthew FLETCHER	Uncontracted
Petar FRANJIC	Victory
Sam GALLAGHER	Mariners
Rhyan GRANT	Sydney FC
Brendan HAMIL	Heart
Bernie IBINI-ISEI	Mariners
Ben KANTAROVSKI	Ncstle Jets
Mathew LECKIE	B M'bach (Ger)
Dylan McGOWAN	Gold Coast
Tommy OAR	Utrecht (Neth)
Dimitrios PETRATOS	Sydney FC
Trent SAINSBURY	Mariners
Lawrence THOMAS (gk)	uncontracted
Marc WARREN	Sheff U (UK)

Foord Voted Best Youngster

Matilda Caitlin Foord is the first recipient at a FIFA Women's World Cup of the Hyundai Best Young Player award, an established and coveted award at the FIFA World Cup.

Caitlin Foord was judged by FIFA's Technical Study Group (TSG) to have demonstrated not only skill and creativity but also to have competed in accordance with the principles of fair play.

Speaking at the announcement, Tatjana Haenni, FIFA's Head of Women's Competitions said, "We are delighted to team up with Hyundai to introduce the Hyundai Best Young Player award for the first time at a FIFA Women's World Cup and equally delighted that Caitlin is the awards' first recipient. This award is another important tool that we can use to showcase role models like Caitlin and in turn inspire more girls to play football."

Candidates for the award were evaluated based on criteria including exceptional skills, a youthful and refreshing playing

style, creativity and tactical maturity. Crucially, to be in the running for the award, players must have featured in some of their teams' matches and demonstrated a passion and spirit for the game as well as be set to establish new standards for their country in the near future. Only players born on or after 17th July 1991 were eligible for consideration by the FIFA TSG making the achievement of Caitlin Foord, at only 16 years and 8 months old, even more remarkable.



Fight cancer! Game on.

Sporting codes across the nation join the same team to fight cancer in men with big name stars including: Socceroos' Tim Cahill, Essendon's Andrew Welsh and Parramatta Eels' Tim Mannah all leading the charge for Cancer Council's Call To Arms 2011.

raise funds and awareness. Round 11 (3 June) on the AFL Fixture saw a moving match when Essendon play Melbourne.

Both clubs have former players touched by cancer and are more likely to be diagnosed with cancer and are more likely to die from the disease. So now is the time to register your club and hold a Call to Arms match.

Sporting bodies AFL and NRL have taken a stand against the confronting odds - half of all Australians will develop cancer by the age of 85, by lending their support to Call to Arms.

The NRL named Round 13 (3-6 June) its official Call To Arms round with rugby players nationwide wearing yellow, during matches, to

joined the cause and wear yellow for one game to help the fight against cancer.

Compared to women, Australian men are more likely to be diagnosed with cancer and are more likely to die from the disease. So now is the time to register your club and hold a Call to Arms match.

Call To Arms first kicked off in 2006, when Essendon Football Club showed its support for teammate Adam Ramanauskas, who was undergoing treatment for cancer, by wearing yellow armbands in a match against Melbourne Football Club.

For more information and to register, visit www.caltoarms.com.au or call 1300 65 65 85.

SHORT PASSES

Vale Malcolm Wild

Football Federation Australia is saddened to hear that former Socceroo Malcolm Wild passed away last weekend.

Born in Brisbane on 4th October 1931, Mal became involved in football at school and rose quickly to prominence. He made his first grade competition debut in 1948 and in 1949 was the youngest player at the time to reach intercity standard for Brisbane in the Kruger Cup against Ipswich. In the same year Mal placed third in The Brisbane Telegraph's Blue of Blue awards.

In 1950 he represented Queensland as an 18 year old in an interstate series against NSW and also at the 1952 All-Australian Soccer Carnival. In total he made 20 appearances for the Queensland State team up until 1960.

Mal played his first match for the senior Australian team on the 14th of August 1954 against New Zealand in Melbourne becoming Socceroo Number 126. His second and last appearance for the Socceroos was against New Zealand two weeks later in his hometown of Brisbane which they won 4-1.

In 1957 he played with the Eastern Suburbs club in Brisbane and later captained the Annerley FC in the Brisbane League winning the premiership and championship in 1959.

One of Australia's best attacking players of the day he is reported to have received offers from Arsenal and Birmingham City in England, but he chose to stay in Australia. Outside of football, Mal worked initially as a panel beater and then later as a soil tester for the Department of Main Roads.

An all-round sportsman, Mal was also a keen cricketer, tennis player and golfer.

He is survived by his wife Doreen, daughters Lea and Jo-Anne, son-in-laws, Bevan and Ian, grand children Trent, Kent, Corey, Shaye, Bree & Courtney and great-grand children Ashleigh, Tiarna, Sophie and Cooper.

SYDNEY FC KICKSTART SEASON WITH STATE LEAGUE ROADSHOW

Sydney FC will start its 2011/12 Hyundai A-League Pre Season program with a string of friendlies against State League clubs, continuing the club's on-going commitment to taking the A-League stars to the people of Sydney.

Sydney FC's Pre Season State League schedule:

Macarthur v Sydney FC

Campbelltown Stadium
Wed 3 August 7.30pm

St George v Sydney FC

WIN Jubilee Stadium
Wed 10 August 7.30pm

Parramatta v Sydney FC

Parramatta Stadium
Wed 17 August 7.30pm

Bankstown Lions v Sydney FC

Jensen Park
Wed 24 August 7.30pm

Sutherland Sharks v Sydney FC

Seymour Shaw
Wed 31 August 7.30pm

Mariners narrow winners over Canberra FC

Central Coast Mariners edged a determined Canberra FC side 2-1 in their friendly match played at Deakin Stadium last Thursday night. Troy Hearfield 22' and Oliver Bozanic 57' scored for the Mariners after a determined Canberra FC 1 took the lead through Paul Ivanic 12'.

Preston Lions Gentlemen's Night

Date: Friday 22nd July at 7.30pm
Where: Preston Mak Social Club
231 Broadhurst Ave, Reservoir
Entry: \$20 includes free drink on arrival
Raffles, Meals, Auctions, Music
Info: Alex - 0414 965 248

Celtic end Aussie Tour with Victory

By Roy Hay

Melbourne Victory lost by a single goal to Celtic on Wednesday night at AAMI Stadium as both teams geared up for their new seasons.

Both were close to full strength, though Victory omitted Carlos Hernandez as a disciplinary measure following his late return from a trial in the United States. Celtic had skipper Scott Brown on the bench and Georgios Samaras wore the armband in the hope of drawing out the local Greek support.

The visitors started briskly and when Leigh Broxham gave away a free kick on the edge of the area, Celtic had its first chance, but Kris Commons' effort was blocked by the wall.

Marko Rojas looked very lively on the left flank for Victory on his debut and won a several early encounters with the Celtic full backs on either flank.

Tando Velaphi had an outstanding game in goal for Victory including a double save from Paddy McCourt and Samaras, and Broxham dug out a clearance to prevent a third strike.

In 36 minutes Victory had a good claim for a penalty when Adam Matthews appeared to handle the ball, but Diego Ferreira's protests were a bit too much for referee Ben Williams who booked the young defender.

As the first half drew to a close, Celtic had three good half-chances but Ki put one well over the top, Rodrigo Vargas saved a Commons' shot at the expense of a corner and Samaras was denied once again by Velaphi.

The first half had begun to look like a pre-season game after its bright start, though some of the

victory short passing was excellent. Celtic lacked a cutting edge, which could be a problem when their league begins next week.

At the interval young Petar Franjic, who has been selected for the Young Socceroos, came on for Vargas and Jean Carlos Solorzano replaced Tom Pondeljak, with Danny Allsopp dropping deeper to accommodate Solorzano.

Victory skipper Adrian Leijer was booked for a foul on Beram Kayal and Tom Mulgrew's fiercely struck kick was pushed over the bar by the alert Velaphi.

At the other end Victory should have taken the lead when Rojas put over a delightful driven cross after a run down the wing and Solorzano slid in to send the ball wide of the post.

Mulgrew replied with a free kick for Celtic which eluded everyone and skidded across the goal area and wide.

Billy Celeski replaced the excellent Grant Brebner who had a fine game at the fulcrum of the midfield against his countrymen.

It looked like Kayal suffered a broken nose and he was replaced by Celtic's regular skipper Scott Brown who had a remit to inject some urgency in midfield.

But it was Victory which came close once again as Danny Allsopp set up Archie Thompson, but the Socceroo striker miscued and the ball scraped past the post once again.

Anthony Stokes replaced Paddy McCourt and Celtic finally got the breakthrough with only 12 minutes left.

Celtic got a corner on the right and Commons looked up and rolled it into the path of the advancing Brown.



Flying High: Georgios Samaras and Adrian Leijer take off on Wednesday night at AAMI Park.
Photo: DANIEL FLIS

The substitute hit the ball hard, but it was a deflection on the way which took the ball past Velaphi and his defenders. Celtic had been the better team but the gap between the sides was not all that great to that point. Both coaches expressed themselves very pleased both by the effort and the skill of their players this early in their preparations.

Victory remained mobile and inventive till very near the end, when the legs got heavier, while Celtic upped the tempo once Brown got into action. It was clear that this was a pre-season game but the fans were entertained and the attendance of 20,000 for a midweek game on a dreich night was respectable.



Celtic boss Neil Lennon salutes the Green and White Army.
Photo: DANIEL FLIS

Melbourne Victory



0

Glasgow Celtic



1

Match Details

Melbourne Victory 0
Celtic 1 (Scott Brown 78')

Wednesday, 13 July 2011
Aami Park, Melbourne
Local Kick-Off: 7:30pm
Referee Ben Williams
Assistant Referees Hakan Anaz And Luke Brennan
Fourth Official Kevin Docherty
Attendance: 20,794

Melbourne Victory:
1 Tando Velaphi, 2 Matthew Foschini, 6 Leigh Broxham, 8 Grant Brebner (14 Billy Celeski 56'), 10 Archie Thompson (17 Jimmy Jeggo 76'), 11 Marko Rojas (25 Luke O'dea 86'), 12 Rodrigo Vargas (4 Petar Franjic 46'), 13 Diogo Ferreira, 15 Tom Pondeljak (9 Jean CaRlos Solorzano 46'), 18 Danny Allsopp (5 Dado Lovkavci 82'), 23 Adrian Leijer

Substitutes Not Used: 20 Rani Dowisha, 26 Nick Ansell

Yellow Cards: Diogo Ferreira 36', Adrian Leijer 47', Leigh Broxham 80'
Red Cards: Nil.

Celtic:
24 Lukasz Zaluska, 2 Adam Matthews (11 Cha Bum Koon 79'), 5 Daniel Majstorovic, 15 Kris Commons, 17 Kelvin Wilson (16 Joe Ledley 73'), 18 Ki, 20 Paddy McCourt (10 Anthony Stokes), 21 Thomas Mulgrew, 9 Georgios Samaras, 33 Beram Kayal (8 Scott Brown 60'), 88 Gary Hooper (27 Daryl Murphy 79'),

Substitutes Not Used: 31 Richie Towell

Yellow Cards:
Red Cards: Nil.



Scott Brown seals the win making it 2 wins out of 3 for The Hoops. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Any Catholics in the house? Celtic's Kop comes to Melbourne. Photo: DARRYL KENNEDY

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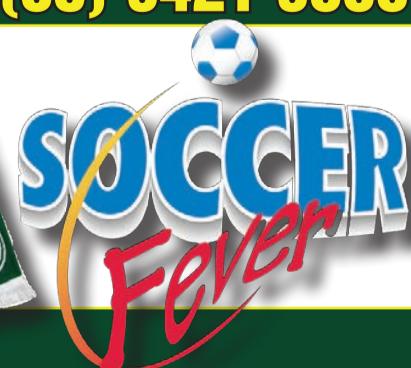


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Matildas' Swede Memories

The Westfield Matildas have bowed out of the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup to Sweden in a pulsating encounter in Augsburg last Sunday.

Two early goals put Sweden in front before a stunning strike from Elyse Perry put Australia back in the hunt just before half-time.

Australia pushed hard and had several excellent chances to get things levels before a defensive error gifted the Swedes a third goal.

The battle in the second half continued with Australia knowing a goal would put them right back in the mix but a number of infringements made it difficult for Australia to gain momentum as time and time again players were brought down in dangerous attacking positions.

The Westfield Matildas continued to fight to the end but Sweden managed to hold on to put themselves in the semi-final against Japan as Australia exited the tournament at the quarter final stage.

"At half-time at 2-1 we felt really comfortable and well in the game," said Westfield Matildas Head Coach Tom Sermanni.

"I think we were until we made another mistake and you can't make mistakes at this level."

"When you consider the goals we've given up in this tournament I think we've done extremely well to get where we've got to."

"You can't be a winning team and defend well for 90 per cent of the time and give opposition easy goals."

"In saying that I am extremely proud of what this group of players have achieved and what steps we have made in this tournament to really improve our standing in world football."

"Now we've got to refocus and get our minds onto the job of qualifying for the London Olympics which begins in China in September."

The Westfield Matildas head to Jinan in China for a six team round robin qualifying tournament from 1-11 September where the top two teams after each nation's five matches will progress to the 2012 London Olympics.

FIFA Women's World Cup – 2nd Stage
Australia 1 (Elyse Perry 40')
Sweden 3 (Therese SJOGREN 11', Lisa DAHLKVIST 16', Lotta SCHELIN 52')

10 July 2011

Augsburg Stadium, Augsburg
Local kick-off: 10pm (30 June, 2011 – 9.00pm AEST / 8.30pm ACST / 7.00pm AWST)

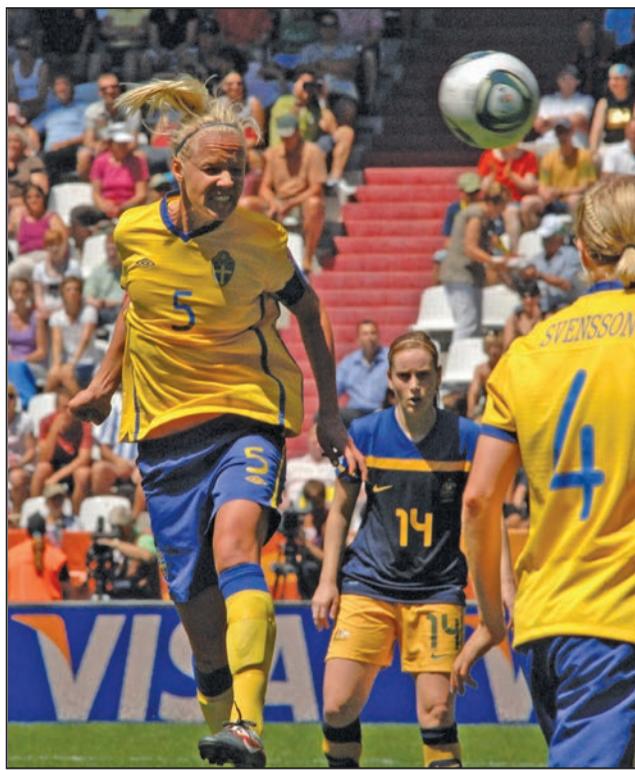
Referee: Silvia REYES (PER)

Assistant referees: Mariana CORBO (URU); Maria ROCCO (ARG)
Fourth official: Dagmar DAMKOVA (CZE)

Australia starting line-up: 1.Melissa BARBIERI (gk) (c), 3.Kim CARROLL, 6.Elyse PERRY (13.Tameka BUTT 59'), 7.Heather GARRICK, 8.Elise KELLOND-KNIGHT, 9.Caitlin FOORD, 10.Servet UZUNLAR, 11.Lisa DE VANA, 12.Emily van EGMOND (4.Clare POLKINGHORNE 58'), 14.Collecte McCALLUM (15.Sally SHIPARD 79'), 17.Kyah SIMON

Substitutes not used: 18.Lydia WILLIAMS (gk), 2.Teigen ALLEN, 16.Lauren COLTHORPE, 19.Leena KHAMIS, 21.Casey DUMONT (gk), 5.Laura ALLEGWAY, 20.Sam KERR

Yellow cards: Kyah SIMON, Heather GARRICK



Sweden's Caroline Seger uses her height to advantage.



Heather Garriock uses her body to thwart Lisa Dahlkvist



Servet Uzunlar holds her ground in defence.



Elyse Perry pulls one back for the Matildas and all of a sudden it's game on again.



Lisa De Vanna takes the game up to Nilla Fischer.



Tameka Butt makes life difficult for Sara Larsson.



Conquering Matildas

Story of the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2010

Photographic works by Paul Lau

27 October – 13 November 2011
Huw Davies Gallery
Photoaccess at the Manuka Arts Centre
Canberra Australia



Balkan Wrap

Alex Milic

Serbia

Partizan got off to a great start in the Champions League Quest with a convincing 4:0 win over Macedonian Champions Skendija in the first leg of Rd2 Qualifying. New signing Eduardo opened the scoring at the start of the second half before Vladimir Stojkovic saved a penalty. Zvonimir Vukic made it 2:0 and a fantastic solo run from Scepovic made it 3:0, the fourth was an own goal. The win gives Partizan a comfortable lead going into the second leg next week in Skopje.

In the Europa League Rad suffered an unlucky loss at home to Greek side Olympiakos Voflos. A late goal gave the visiting side an important away goal. Rad can however be proud of its performance against a more formidable opponent. Vojvodina is all but assured a place in the last Qualifying Round following a 2:0 win away to Liechtenstein side Vaduz which competes in the Swiss 2nd division. Goals from Oumar and Brana Ilic have the red and whites from Novi Sad a comfortable buffer ahead

Partizan and Dinamo's winning Euro start



The fans were the 12th player for Dinamo



Krstanovic celebrates

of the 2nd leg. Red Star Belgrade takes on either Belorussian side Shakhtyor Soligorsk or Latvian side Ventspils in the last qualifying round. It was also a very turbulent week for the Serbian giants with captain Milan Vilotic suspended by manager Robert Prosinecki for a lack of discipline.

"As long as I'm the manager of Red Star, Milan Vilotic will not wear the red and white jersey. He has a number of times been very immature towards myself and the coaching staff and he is no longer the captain or will he ever play for the club as long as I'm the manager." A very upset Robert Prosinec said.

Red Star has not lost a match on its pre-season tour and has only conceded one goal in six match-

es. The most impressive wins were over Austrian side Mattersburg and Israeli side Ashdod.

Croatia

Dinamo Zagreb got off to a flyer with a 3:0 win over Azerbaijani side Neftchi in Uefa Champions League Qualifying in front of 38,000 fans in a packed Maksimir Stadium.

The Croatian Champions dominated from the get go and were duly rewarded with Captain Milan Badelj's fine strike. New signing Ivan Krstanovic had a debut to remember with a double for his new club. The Bosnian has already proven to be a major signing for the country's biggest club. Krstanovic was the 1HNL top goal-scorer last season and the tall striker will hope to do the

same come the new season. The large crowd number was due to the tickets costing only 13 euro cents which is as cheap as tickets get. The support from the crowd was enormous for the club and it is believed the ticket prices will continue to be supporter friendly but not as cheap as 13 cents.

"We played a great match and secured a positive result which gives us a nice advantage to take into the second leg. We have to finish off the job in Azerbaijan. I've always wanted to play for Dinamo and I'm really happy the stadium was packed with our fans and I scored two goals in front of them, I'm also ecstatic that my parents came to watch me for the first time and I treated them with a double, why wouldn't I be crying?" New

striker Ivan Krstanovic said following the match.

Hajduk Split will take on Stoke City in the last Qualifying Round of the Europa League. The English side was one of the clubs Hajduk wanted to avoid in the draw. It will be a real tough encounter for the Croats but one the fans can be treated to and a real test ahead of the Croatian League. On the 23rd the whites from Split will take on European Champions Barcelona in a friendly match at the Poljud stadium. City rivals RNK Split will take on English side Fulham in the last round of the Europa League. That is if they can overcome Slovenian side Domzale which Split defeated 2:1 in Slovenia.

Euro Wrap



Alex Luttrell

The European transfer market has gone quiet this week, with Liverpool headlining the major signings, including Aston Villa's Stewart Downing and Roma's Alexander Doni.

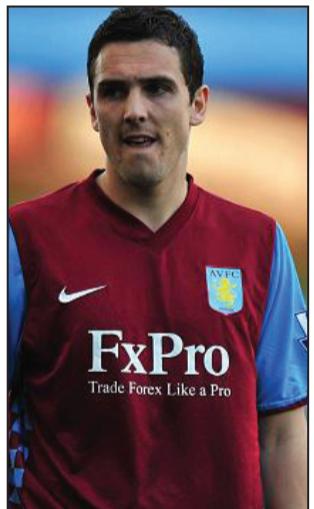
Stewart Downing has finally become a Red after weeks of speculation of his move accompanied by rejected offers. The left winger found the interest from Liverpool too enticing to pass up and handed in a transfer request to make his move go through. The Merseysiders agreed \$30 million fee with Villa for the 26 year-old.

Liverpool has also signed Roma's Brazilian keeper **Alexander Doni** on a free transfer as a back up to Pepe Reina. All of Liverpool's major signings accumulate to \$50 million thus far.

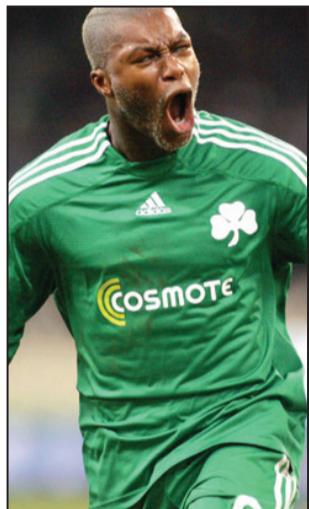
John Arne Riise has also left Roma to Fulham for an undisclosed fee; **Djibril Cisse** is joining Lazio from Panathinaikos for \$7 million to accompany Miroslav Klose upfront. Jerome Boateng has also left Manchester City to Bayern Munich for \$17 million.

However, rumours of major transfers are still very intense all over Europe, with some being

Liverpool Summer Spree Breaks 50 Million



Stewart Downing signs for Liverpool



Cisse moves to Lazio



Tevez wants out of Eastlands

very close to completion. These include the signature of **Owen Hargreaves** by West Bromwich. The two parties are going into talks this week for a deal to be completed hopefully in the next fortnight.

Also, the signature of **Giuseppe Rossi** to Juventus from Villarreal is very likely to go through in the coming weeks with the Bi-anconeri preparing a \$33 million bid for the striker after the deal with **Sergio Aguero** fell through. However, Villarreal have a \$39 million valuation, but could drop the price.

Other very well known transfer rumours include the ongoing sagas of **Carlos Tevez**, **Sergio**

Aguero, **Luka Modric**, **Samir Nasri** and **Cesc Fabregas**.

Beginning with Tevez's future career, the Argentine has made it clear he wants out of Manchester City to move back to Argentina to be with his family. He has handed in a request to leave and accordingly his old club Corinthians have offered \$60 million for the striker. However, City has rejected the offer as short of his \$75 million valuation as equal top scorer last season.

Upon this rejection, Juventus have joined the race and have put in a \$69 million bid to City which has yet to be responded to.

Tevez has insisted he wants to move back home to his old club,

but considering City want more the striker will consider a move to Italy. Juventus are now likely to sign the striker as Corinthians are not willing to increase their offer.

The ongoing saga of **Sergio Aguero**, like Tevez's, is complicated. Aguero has made it clear he wants out of Atletico Madrid and has also handed in a transfer request for a sea change. However, he has declined a move to Juventus last week as he wishes to move to England or stay in Spain.

Manchester City's Roberto Mancini is leading the race to sign the young star as his interest in the Argentine has increased greatly

since Tevez has voiced his desire to leave. Aguero has responded saying he would love a move to England and the sky blues but talks still need to commence regarding his \$59 million valuation and wages.

He has also voiced desire for a move to Real Madrid who is yet to consider bidding. Chelsea is also looking at the striker although they may not consider since the acquisition of Fernando Torres alongside Didier Drogba and Nicholas Anelka.

Atletico are lining up **Radamel Falcao** as a replacement for the Argentine who Porto has placed a \$39 million price tag over. Giuseppe Rossi is also a possibility if the deal with Juve falls through.

City is also considering the signing of Arsenal's **Samir Nasri** to which Mancini has said he is hopeful but not sure. A deal may be expected by the end of the month.

Other fiery rumours include the desire of Tottenham's **Luka Modric** to Chelsea. The Croatian has voiced his desire to move to Chelsea and has apparently handed in a transfer request to which Spurs are still reluctant to acknowledge. Spurs also turned down offers of \$33 and \$40 million as "no where near" his true value. Time will tell if Spurs accept his request and let him go at an appropriate offer.

Viva Espana



Pepe Lopez

Aguero Set To Replace Tevez At Manchester City

Despite recent talk that Sergio "Kun" Aguero would stay with Atletico Madrid for one more season from people as close to Aguero as his family, Sergio himself has just come out and re-iterated his determination to move on; "My agents are taking care of my transfer. I don't know when an agreement will be found, now I am concentrated on the Copa America. In any case I have said it many times, even officially, I want to change club".

The 23 year old Argentine striker "Kun", is now set to participate in a game of musical chairs with fellow Argentine striker Carlos Tevez.

Tevez has been the subject of 35 million pound bid from Brazilian club Corinthians, and now a 45 million pound bid from Italian club Juventus. Tevez has been outspoken in his displeasure in lifestyle of the English city of Manchester, and appears to be definitely bound for Juventus. There has been speculation that the bid from Brazil for Tevez, is a move motivated by the prospect of selling Tevez back to another European club at a higher price.

Speaking with Sky Sports, Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini claimed, "Aguero is a player that can play for Manchester City because he is young and he is a good player like Carlos." Meanwhile, Aguero's Atletico Madrid striking partner Uruguayan Diego Forlan, who will line up against Aguero in the Copa America Quarter-Final between Uruguay and Argentina, has stated that Aguero should be let go by their respective club; "If he is really happy with the decision he made, then we have to accept it and wish him good luck."

Forlan himself is also likely to leave Atletico Madrid, with English club Tottenham Hotspur are possible destination. "There are more people who want me out than there are people who want me to stay (at Atletico Madrid)." Ironically, a possible candidate to replace Aguero and Forlan at Atletico Madrid is Porto's Colombian striker Radamel Falcao. Falcao has only just timely rewritten his Porto contract, to include a release clause of 45 Million Euro, the same amount as Aguero's release clause with Atleti. In other Spanish news, Spain International Joan Capdevila, has declared his intent to leave Spanish Club Villarreal.

"I go with the team retreat without to know what will happen, but the will is to leave Villarreal."

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Only 24 hours after independence, South Sudan were on the pitch

By Francis Fields

As the joyous occasion erupted last week with the independence of South Sudan filling the news, the newest country in the world also has its duties and commitments to fulfill with football of course.

Not only is it a momentous date with the birth of a nation after decades of internal civil war with the Sudan, what is even more special are the ties that our beautiful game attaches with this new political landscape.

There are initiating talks already in the capital Juba from the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Recreation in the newly formed government of South Sudan to establish a provisional Southern Sudan Football Association.

Such declaration was expected and made last week after president Eissa Hayatu of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) made clear that under FIFA constituency, South Sudan needs to be officially incepted onto the football map or the football family as the governing body name it by.

Hayatu declared in speech at the CAF General Assembly in Khartoum, Sudan signalling that the next general assembly of the Confederation shall endorse the Southern Sudan Football Federation as the 54th member of the Federation of African Football.

The current national team (which is legally still unofficial) played its first international match just twenty-four hours after the independence of South Sudan.

Kenyan premier league side Tusker FC travelled to play the hosts and the wave generated by hope, optimism, unity and identity most importantly is not only such a strong sign and value gained from sports, from football but a sense of sheer satisfaction and joy.

Imagine the rapture that must have been heard and witnessed as South Sudan opened the scoring to later go down 3-1. Like the rest of the crowd, he had gathered to watch his team take on Kenyan Premier League side Tusker FC for a match whose result for once, wasn't important.

There are 64 tribes in the country and to have them mixed in and sing the national anthem for the first time may well be inexplicable for us as Australians.

Juba now has a renovated football stadium, but for the 15,000 people who had turned up in South Sudan's capital they were in for celebration. Remember, just about every possible human tragedy has taken place in the newly-formed country for decades - since the 1950s to be precise.

Also commendable was the conduct by Tusker FC in forming a lap of honour for the South Sudan players, joining

in the emotional and rapturous delight. They are as well, the first to respect and honour the national anthem.

"We were all very emotional as it was the first time that our national team played, singing the national anthem," recalled Makua Teny, the country's first Minister for Sport.

The match itself for the record saw a promising start by South Sudan. They later self-destructed after captain Khamis Liyano scored their first international goal, but two own-goals helped the Kenyan premier league side overcome their hosts 3-1.

As the obstacles facing South Sudan are large to say the least, the civil war's trail of destruction and trauma are beginning to heal slowly and through football, the largely Christian and animist southern population can not only look to shape up an economy in the future with their fabulous oil wealth that the region has but refine a future of footballing hopefuls.

Juba's new national football stadium did not have any grass to start off with. So it was not playable and right up until kick-off, new grass was laid and floodlights were erected for the first time.

There was also no teams from the Sudanese first division from the south so players did not have opportunities to play at club level.

Steven Constantine, an English coach

in charge of the Sudan national team up until last year said in an interview with CNN that in the case of the South Sudanese players, they are very talented but faced issues of nutrition and physical conditioning as they were not strong enough and also lacked the financial resources to compete.

That problem can now begin to resolve and the players from Constantine's words highlight the pride the players have when identifying themselves as southern Sudanese and hardly ever presenting themselves as Sudanese.

In terms of organization and infrastructure, it will take them a few years to become stronger, nurture into part-time amateur and ultimately into full-time professional players as the new South Sudan Football Federation (SSFF) has to build a league, a number of stadiums and clubs from scratch. Then training referees and sport scientists come into the equation although the first steps are political with FIFA and the CAF in terms of recognition.

Benjamin Oliver, the new head of the SSFF, who along with the coach held trials and managed to put a team together in under three weeks said that not one of the South Sudan players who play for clubs in the north were released for the fixture as it was not an official FIFA game day.

So as the international community comes to aid the new nation, the link



between football, identity, unity and nationhood are very strong and many newly-found states like Montenegro and Palestine for example, or states divided by war, have used the soft power of football to achieve difficult political objectives.

The Palestinians, for example under FIFA are a member federation since 1998, but not under the UN so the Palestinian Authority shifts its importance in fostering a sense of unity at home through its national football team. It is also one of the few opportunities where one can see the Palestinian flag fly on the international stage.

Look at West Germany and Iraq. Their victories at the World Cup final in 1954 and the 2007 Asian Cup respectively spurred the two nations forward after painstaking wars to manifest unity as a result of their tournament triumphs.

It seems a formidable way to build a nation in this television and digital age through sport because it has the most watched viewed programs.

South Sudan politicians are adamant the formation of a football federation will open doors, strengthen their political agendas and are confident that its application for inception to join the CAF will fall through and later continue on their two-year process to join FIFA.

BOO'S WORLD

A look at the lighter side of football.



With Mark Boric

It's farceball not football

ANOTHER great week in Victorian football. It had been a while since the FFV (Football Farce Victoria?) stripped points off a team in the AVPL, so midweek they took three off South Melbourne for fielding the allegedly ineligible Kliment Taseski against Richmond the previous Saturday.

However, it seems that the dual-registered Taseski's loan agreement had been extended and in a stunning back-flip the points were restored by week's end.

A few years ago the then Victorian Soccer Federation was re-branded Football Federation Victoria. Perhaps it is now time to revert back to a name from early last century when the Victorian Amateur Soccer Football Association was running the game. The key word here is "amateur".

The back-flip item on the FFV website ended with these words: "SMFC could have avoided this misunderstanding by providing FFV full details of the loan extension with the Player prior to the Saturday 9 July match."

Huh? Perhaps the FFV could have prevented this shemozzle by conducting a more thorough investigation BEFORE deducting points and making facebook announcements. The apparent policy of deducting points first then asking questions later has let everyone down badly here.

It's an embarrassing episode, but one that will be glossed over on Gold Medal Night when the FFV is once again backslapping itself on what a great job it is doing.

I've got a suggestion for the federation. Perhaps this year it should bring all the referees' voting slips for the Gold Medal to the function, so club officials can go through them and conduct their own tallies because after debacles like last week's and the Mirabella Cup draw/redraw, can the FFV be relied on to get those tallies right?

Mirabella madness

IT APPEARS that Cobram Victory threatened to withdraw from

the Mirabella Cup last week after the FFV was unable to schedule their clash with Melbourne Knights on a weekend.

These things are to be expected when you announce a Cup competition a week before the AVPL season is to commence with no weekends set aside for Cup rounds.

From the initial Mirabella Cup announcements, there was little in the way of a full schedule of when the matches would be fixtured during the season but more of how it was an opportunity for clubs to come up against Melbourne Heart or Melbourne Victory. As they say in the classics, LOL.

Show them the money

AN ARMAGUARD truck would have been required at the Tribunal on Wednesday night to take away the enormous amount of fines headed for FFV coffers.

Youth United player Salih Yigit failed to front the Tribunal and was banned until the end of 2021 in absentia. The club incurred \$12,500 in fines, a three-point deduction and the match that was abandoned in the 54th minute against Melton Phoenix was awarded 10-0 in Melton's favour. Not sure what the score was at the time the game was abandoned, but the 10-0 verdict certainly raises an eyebrow.

Nurettin Kalkan of Balmoral was also suspended until the end of 2021 after being sent-off in a subsequently abandoned game against Essendon Royals. Essendon were winning 2-0 at the time of the incident and the game was awarded 4-0 in their favour.

I'm not sure if I agree with this policy of the Tribunal making score determinations and I wonder how fair this is to other teams in the leagues in relation to goal difference.

I didn't think there was much wrong with the old system of a standard 0-3 result against the offending party.

Whilst on the subject of the old 0-3, I noticed many comments indicating that it should have been how the Richmond v South Melbourne match was determined if indeed an ineligible player had been fielded.

While the offending team was punished with a three point deduction, the team that had been offended against would not get much joy had they lost the game to a side that had used an unregistered or suspended player. Another case of a rule which worked perfectly well for a century being changed for no good reason that I'm aware of.

Reading through the other Tribunal Hearing Notices and Determinations, I see a young man from Manningham found himself playing with the round ball rather than an AFL ball and was sent off for making "monkey noises" at an opponent.

In light of recent events in the AFL he can count himself incredibly lucky to have escaped with an automatic one-week suspension.

Even in the Thirds Leagues, the wild antics continue. A match between Gisborne and Sporting Whittlesea saw \$7500 in fines incurred by Whittlesea, who also lost three points and had the game awarded 0-1 against them.

Juniors and then the supposedly social Thirds League, what next? How long before Paralympic and Wheelchair teams are fronting VCAT in King Street?

This week's big case will be an Under 18s game between Heidelberg United and Heidelberg Stars which may involve racial comments, a melee and associates entering the field of play.

But fear not, according to an FFV announcement last week, the "zero tolerance policy sees anti-social behaviour greatly reduced".

Apparently it's all in the comparative statistics for red and yellow cards, which in the case of the yellow variety are down by 30%. It seems as if they do not keep comparative statistics on matches abandoned due to violence or acts of racial abuse, so it's all good news as far as FFV's spin doctors go.

(P.S.: No phones were hacked in obtaining information for this column).

What do some of the decisions that come out of the House of Darebin and the erupting Volcano from Chile have in common?

At any time, they can remain dormant, but then without notice, their effects can be widespread and far reaching.

After a relative lull in controversy coming out of the FFV, they deducted 3 Points from South Melbourne, as it was alleged that Kliment Taseski's Loan Agreement between South Melbourne and Melbourne Heart had elapsed prior to their recent Sad End against Richmond, played on July 9th.

According to the Media Release from the House of Darebin, they advised South Melbourne of the above in writing on Monday July 4th and removed Taseski from the South Melbourne player roster the next day.

However, in a twist of events, no quicker than the 3 points deducted, they were reinstated as South Melbourne advised the FFV on the 13th July that the Loan extension had taken place, and the Melbourne Heart verified this on Friday July 15th. Read into the above what you will!

Over to the UK we go and specifically Yorkshire Home of Leeds United, and

The VPL is 2 Games short of con-



More back-flips than the Romanian gymnastics Olympic team: South's Kliment Tasevski has been at the centre of controversy this week. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

KATSA'S KORNER

Resident hack with a career spanning over 700 Games (685 in the Provisional League Reserves) and 15 senior cameo appearances.

With George Katsamboukas

cluding the Home and Away Season, and a number of Clubs are making last minute attempts to scramble into the Top 5.

I was at the Bentleigh Greens and Dandenong Thunder match where the Green's secured a 2-1 Happy End which does their chances of reaching the Finals no harm, and at the same time, inflicts a dent in the Thunder's final aspirations.

Bentleigh's Kiwi import Ryan DeVries was once again Man Of The Match, slotting in 2 Happy Ends, and from what I have seen of this player, he belongs in the A-League. Any takers?

As for the temperature that night,

needless to say that my car boot was emptied of every jacket, top and coat that I had in there, and quickly donned. Even the jumper leads looked inviting.

Until Next Week

This is Katsa – Just as You've known him

And remember – Keep your 3 Points Close, and your Loan Agreements Closer!



Who ate all the pies? Joffa shows his true colours. Photo: DARRYL KENNEDY

The English tour of 1951

BLAST FROM THE PAST

With Roy Hay

The death this week of Malcolm Wild, Queensland and Australian representative in the 1950s, brings to mind some highs and lows of the game in this country.

Malcolm made his debut as an 18-year-old for Queensland in 1950 and he was only 19 when he got his first cap for Australia against the English touring team on 26 May 1951. That was a baptism of fire for the young man as England beat Australia by four goals to one. Wild was inside left to Frank Parsons who scored Australia's goal. England then came down to Victoria where it beat a Victorian country eleven, the state side and an Australian eleven in five days by scores of 5-0, 7-0 and 6-1.

Then it was off to Tasmania to begin a sequence of four games in which the Englishmen scored double figures in each match. The wins over Tasmanian teams in Hobart and Launceston might have been expected, but the next was a 13-1 result against an Australian eleven in Adelaide, followed by Australia's worst ever defeat by 17-0 in Sydney. The back-story for this last disaster was the feeling in the English camp that they had been badly treated by their hosts in Sydney, and so instead of taking things relatively easy when they were well ahead, they decided to teach the Aussies a lesson. Poor Malcolm Wild was in the team that day, partnering Reg Date and Eric Hulme. But you can't blame a youngster for the scale of that defeat. The Australian goalkeeper was Norman Conquest, but you could hardly blame him either.

Malcolm Wild also played in the Adelaide match, but he recovered from those experiences to turn out for Australia against New Zealand twice in 1954. He also represented Queensland in a score of matches and it is said that he had offers to play in England from Arsenal and Birmingham City which he turned down.

The 1951 English squad was not the strongest professional side which could have been sent, and the five test matches are only counted as B internationals in the records of the Football Association. There were some high quality players in the party from goalkeeper Sam Bartram of Charlton Athletic, Reg Flewin of Portsmouth who captained the side and Sid

Owen of Luton in defence and Jackie Sewell, then at Sheffield Wednesday, and Jimmy Hagan of Sheffield United in attack. Frank Mitchell, then playing at Birmingham City, was selected to make the tour and his picture appeared in the publicity photograph which accompanied the team, but for some reason he did not travel. Frank was an Australian who played for England in a match to raise funds for the families of the victims of the Burnden Park disaster in 1946. Mitchell also played cricket for Warwickshire, but the Daily Worker Football Annual said that Mitchell was more than worth a full England cap. This was long before Joe Marston went to Preston North End.

In all the tourists played 21 games and scored 157 goals and conceded only 14. Sewell was top scorer with 35, Hagan had 28 and Ike Clarke of Portsmouth got 23. In all over 190,000 fans watched the games, with the largest single attendance being the 46,014 who crowded into the Sydney Cricket Ground for the first test. The game against Victoria drew 29,652 to the MCG, while that against an Australian eleven two days later attracted 25,041 at Punt Road Oval. Steve Czaderna of Polonia, the Victorian keeper, may have conceded seven goals to the Englishmen, but he saved so many more that his teammates insisted his photograph should appear on the cover of the next issue of Soccer News. All the goals in that game were scored by Jackie Sewell. Alex Barr, who could be highly critical of the local game, said the Czaderna's performance 'put him in international class (UK standard)'.

In July three more test matches were played in Brisbane, Sydney and Newcastle and Australia made much more of a game of it in each case. Though England won all three the results were closer, 1-4, 1-6 and 0-5. Ron Lord was in goals in all three games and Bob Lawrie from Ipswich captained the side and kept it together. Lawrie was another who had a spell in England with Portsmouth. Harry Robertson and Eric Hulme with a penalty scored the Australian goals in these matches. Lord went on to alternate with Bill Henderson in goals for Australia through much of the 1950s.

Good ol' days of 0-17!



Frank Parsons in action. Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library



Action from the Australian eleven versus England at Punt Road Oval in 1951. Soccer News, 7.7.51, p. 1



Jackie Sewell mesmerises the Victorian defence. Soccer News, 23.6.51, p. 1.



Action shots from Victoria v England at the MCG in 1951. Soccer News, 23.6.51, pp. 8-9.



Latin
Wrap

Francis Fields

Every main performance, every main event has its rehearsal. The Copa America is the rehearsal at senior level for the qualifiers in a few months' time. Notice the average ages of players in the squads that span from 21 to 24, even 25 years. That is long-term vision.

The Copa yesterday saw Uruguay overcome the hosts and Peru edge out Colombia.

Midfielders Carlos Augusto Lobatón and Juan Manuel Vargas scored in extra time enabling the Peruvians to reach the Copa America semi finals.

Lobatón fired a powerful shot from just inside the penalty area in the 101st minute while Vargas sealed the victory with a shot from near the penalty spot ten minutes later in the 111th.

Peru reaches the final four for the first time since 1997. Colombia, one of title favourites after playing well in the group stage had the best chance to break the deadlock in regulation, but star striker Radamel Falcao missed a penalty kick in the 65th, sending a low right-footed shot wide left.

The other encounter was a grudging and entertaining Rio de la Plata derby. The traditions between neighbouring Argentina and Uruguay are always fierce.

As the first of the broadcasts of the Copa have begun on free-to-air, viewers can once again witness the emotion that takes place in the most football-mad corner of the earth.

Goalkeeper Fernando Muslera ended up the hero of the night in Santa Fé as his penalty stop denied the sometimes outspoken Carlos Tévez ensuring his teammates to do the rest from the spotkick.

Just to recap, Diego Pérez gave Uruguay an early 1-0 lead in the 6th minute. His attack left the home side's defence left wondering what had happened. At least that was the expression on goalkeeper Sergio Romero's face.

The tackles flew in from behind and basically all the rest of the bullying as well. Typical distracting tactics from the two sides where they are passed from generation-to-generation. It is these street-wise habits that are brought onto the pitch and kept the neutral fan at bay. Uruguay did seem to show the more

Argentina eliminated from Copa on penalties



Uruguay knock out hosts Argentina 5-4 on penalties after scores were locked 1-1.



Peru are through after taking care of Colombia 2-0 in extra time.

temperance of the two sides.

When Gonzalo Higuaín equalized in the 18th minute with a trademark opportunistic finish, Argentina later had a man advantage from the other goalscorer, Pérez picking up his second yellow.

But Muslera and Uruguay's rugged defense came to the rescue stopping Argentina with their renowned tenacity, fighting "charrúa" spirit and the tactical intelligence from the coach Oscar Washington Tabárez.

Argentina had a dozen chances during regulation and extra time. They paid the price.

When Argentina captain Javier Mascherano was sent off in the 87th, Uruguay's numerical disadvantage was only on paper as their covering in terms of zonal marking still made up for Pérez's dismissal.

Then the scintillating drama unfolding particularly with the notable style of goalkeeper Muslera turning his back away from the action from the spotkick. A way to simply remain focused with a cool-head and a temperament as ice-cold.

You see, some coaches encourage the young guns and some other tacticians stick with the blend of experience. That has regularly been the case worldwide but as these decisions are daring, they are decisions with confidence, with vision that can also be opportunistic.

They go by the name of Sergio Markarián with Peru. The Incarich historical nation has caused shockwaves in world football however, the work behind at training by the Uruguayan-born coach is for all to see.

Another is aforementioned Tabárez. Trained tactically in Italy, his expertise in reading

the game, especially with a man down proves that despite the Celestes' limited technical approach, depending on strictly vertical gameplay or route-one football can also provide the covering of spaces notwithstanding the shutting out of little Lionel as soon as he got the ball.

The marking in the Americas is much more tight. The harassing is not one you see in European football. That simply explains why the overhyped and so-called stars face the difficult task of responding to pressure and performance back at home soil when their professions are based in the Old continent.

Remember at national level, development coaching is scarce and the call-ups are based primarily on form from club duty.

In South American football idiosyncrasies, as youth provide the escape from cliché out-of-poverty life stores, it is the youth who implement the energy, that same energy from local grassroots onto big-level matches.

Heads are not yet inflated with six figure sums, egos are not shining as yet with halos and most importantly, the quality of football can be seen as pure.

So with the quarter final pairings decided and played overnight with overt and deserved coverage on free-to-air television, this month's Copa America broadens up to a wider cultural perspective for Australians.

It is a refined outlook from say, four years. There are noticeable differences from the oldest continental tournament staged in Hugo Chavez's Venezuela which was a success to now, one of the game's global heartlands that is Argentina.

World Cup qualification looms from October onwards for the

path to Brazil and having staged such a tournament in Argentina was a wise decision.

The former has grown and reached the last eight generating respect and highly entertaining football with most importantly, identity. Venezuela now has its identity shaped and developing on the pitch.

Argentina on the other hand, run on thin ice. Batista when a player was quite the defensive and dirty-minded player on the pitch. He was the kind for tactical purposes.

Of course, everybody grows and learns and he has to get to where he is, the issue is how do you foresee game-after-game with a squad of attacking-minded players? The answer came up when Uruguay kept piling pressure playing their own and disabling the Argentine team's offensive strategy so to play under pressure.

Football marketing over in the Americas is passed on by word of mouth mainly, by family bloodlines, from patriotism and so the level or angle is different. For instance, check out the range of quirky and charismatic commercial videos ads online even if you do not speak Portuguese or Spanish.

Jumping ahead then from the little bit of background; many of the member federations do lobby and have particular positions within the seats of the CONMEBOL.

The central headquarters in Asunción, Paraguay is picturesque and uniquely themed. The buildings may very well serve for us locally for inspiration amongst architects but the focal point to head into is the way influences can shape and mould a tournament.

It is vital that youth are pushed into playing the way they play. As much as the future of industries go digital, the future of football will relentlessly always link up with boys that are so eager to represent their country, with a heart of pride, with eyes of predators, with legs of men and with the enthusiasm of professional footballers.

On a lighter note, it is curious to see how spectators at various games spark laser lightings onto players' faces for distraction. From both a vicious intention to do for spare time or with the intention to purely distract players on the pitch, it just goes to show the ingenuities done by football-mad people.

Cultures are learned attitudes of a society. Looking at Venezuela, its football has grown via the obvious signs, training and working hard. On the bigger scale, up to a decade ago Omar Pastoriza landed on the oil-rich soil and true to his style like his countrymen from Argentina as export coaches, invested his vision and time working on its future players.

The result these days is one where the nouveau riche class in Venezuela who want to invest in the game, do so in football. There is new found belief since the last Copa that was hosted there.

Perhaps motivation to some players come from the resilience of its secondary and tertiary students back home across the country, rallying for public education rights. Superb motivation coming from fans. A lot of players open up at press conferences and listen to the voices of supporters.

There are stories across reports of travelling supporters sav-

ing their every peso. Stories of travelling supporters even without accommodation - going to extreme lengths- but taking their necessary enthusiasm and equipment for their Copa experience.

The coaching has little to envy from around the continent. The tactics so far match the awareness from the European leagues where possession is the main focal point.

So as the other two quarter final pairings between Chile versus Venezuela and the re-match of Brazil versus Paraguay unfold today, by this time next week the winner will be lifting the trophy of the oldest continental tournament. Make sure you do not miss the action and another review and analysis to come on the following edition in two weeks' time.

Hasta luego.

Copa America

Quarter Finals

Colombia 0 Peru 2 (AET)

Argentina 1 Uruguay 1
(Uruguay wins 5-4 on Penalties)

Brazil v Paraguay

Chile v Venezuela
(playing overnight)

Semi Finals

Peru v Uruguay

Brazil/Paraguay
v
Chile/Venezuela

Final

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Mike Salter

The composition of the five-team NSW Premier League finals series is beginning to firm, with the competition's top five teams all winning on the weekend and opening up a healthy gap on the rest of the field.

Sydney Olympic got back to winning ways with a 2-1 defeat of bottom club Parramatta FC on Sunday, while second-placed Sydney United took three points away from their long trip to the Illawarra, seeing off South Coast United by the same scoreline. Sutherland remain a point behind the men from Edensor Park in third after a 2-0 win on Saturday over APIA-Leichhardt, whose disastrous run continues. Details of that one can be found below.

The defending champions, by contrast, are in white-hot form at the moment, as Bankstown City discovered; the Macedonian-backed club were thumped 7-1 by Blacktown, with veteran striker Luke Roodenburgh notching a hat-trick. The Bonnyrigg White Eagles consolidated their hold on fourth place by defeating Marconi, whose finals hopes are quickly vanishing. Another two teams still in the hunt for an unlikely spot in the five, Rockdale and Manly, drew 1-1 at Bicentennial Park, a result which will please neither side.

Sutherland Sharks 2-0 APIA Leichhardt

In an entertaining game at Seymour Shaw Park, an in-form Sutherland maintained their excellent home record against APIA-Leichhardt, who showed flashes of good football but again failed to

Top Five Heats Up In Race For Finals Football

make it count.

Franco Parisi and Robbie Younis, both restored to the APIA starting line-up, posed plenty of problems for the Sutherland defence in the opening minutes, but it was the hosts who opened the scoring after fifteen minutes. Veteran Sutherland captain George Souris, strolling shrewdly out of defence, played a neat pass in the direction of former North Queensland playmaker Panay Nikas, who took the ball down the right before cutting the ball inside to an unmarked Matt Bailey, who buried the chance adroitly.

Nikas was to give another indication of his class only two minutes later, when a foul on big Sam Awad presented Sutherland with a free kick 20 yards from goal. Nikas' right-footed strike sailed into the top right-hand corner of Jose Bello Amigo's goal, leaving the APIA gloveman with no chance.

Awad almost scored himself soon afterwards, his powerful cross-shot just eluding Bello Amigo's far post, and the home side should have notched a third on the half-hour when the ubiquitous Nikas floated a ball over from the left, which the APIA defence failed to clear: it reached Todd Halloran, who miscued what should have been a routine finish.

Younis' pace and physical presence was still proving a challenge for the Sutherland backline. He teed up Nick Rizzo for a shot which flashed wide of goal, before forcing Nathan Denham into a save from one of his trademark bullet-like left-footed free kicks.

APIA began the second period in aggressive style, but it was Sutherland who received the first chance of note. Bello Amigo was stranded in no-man's land when the ball fell to Bailey, but the Sutherland midfielder's stinging shot was saved superbly by the retreating APIA



Manly United's Scott Balderson celebrates his goal during the 4-0 whitewash of Mounties Wanderers in the Waratah Cup final last week. Photo: DAMIEN BRIGGS/ COURTESY FNSW

keeper.

Chances began to arrive for the visitors. A cross from the overlapping Mark Byrnes was headed straight at Denham by Parisi, never at his best in the air, while David D'Apuzzo, becoming more prominent in the second half, fired a left-footed shot over the bar from a narrow angle. Rizzo too created an opportunity for himself after

shrugging off the attentions of Souris, but failed to get his low shot on target.

APIA thought they had clawed a goal back eighteen minutes from the close, but Younis was ruled to have controlled the ball with his arm before motoring past Denham to bury the ball in an unguarded net. Five minutes later D'Apuzzo was mysteriously allowed to close

in on goal from the left; this time he got his shot on target, but found Denham on his mettle.

That was clearly that, and indeed it was the hosts who came the closest to scoring as the match petered out. Nikas was guilty of a glaring miss ten minutes from the end, and in added time Halloran produced a fine shot from nowhere, drawing a top-class save from Bello Amigo.

NSW Results

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE: ROUND 16: FIRST GRADE: Sutherland Sharks 2 (Matthew Bailey 15m Panagiotis Nikas 16m) APIA Tigers 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3 (Bradley Boardman 65m Brendan Gan 68m Blake Powell 86m) Marconi Stallions 1 (Gosue Sama 34m), Sydney Olympic 2 (Robert Mileski 1m David Gullo 78m) Parramatta Eagles 0, Rockdale City Suns 1 (Jason Naidovski 39m) Manly United FC 1 (Adam Foti 26m), South Coast Wolves 1 (Mark Picciolini 30m) Sydney United 2 (Benjamin Vidac 44m Elsild Bakhousir 56m), Blacktown City FC 7 (Mitchell Duke 4/90m Zachary Cairncross 7m Luke Roodenburgh 38/43/50m Travis Major 83m pen) Bankstown City 1 (Hussein Salameh 75m pen).

GRADE 20: Sutherland Sharks 2 APIA Tigers 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 Marconi Stallions 7, Sydney Olympic 0 Parramatta Eagles 1, Rockdale City Suns 0 Manly United FC 1, South Coast Wolves 1 Sydney United 3, Blacktown City FC 2 Bankstown City 0.

Next Round

Manly United FC vs Parramatta FC
Cromer Park 7:00 PM Sat 23/JUL

Rockdale City Suns vs Bonnyrigg WE
Ilinden Sports Centre 7:00 PM Sat 23/JUL

Sydney Olympic vs APIA Leichhardt
Belmore Sports Gmd 3:00 PM Sun 24/JUL

Bankstown City vs Sutherland Sharks
Jensen Park 3:00 PM Sun 24/JUL

Marconi Stallions vs Sth Coast Wolves
Marconi Stadium 3:00 PM Sun 24/JUL

Sydney United vs Blacktown City FC
Sydney United Sports Centre 4:00 PM

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD Pts
1 Sydney Olympic	16	11	3	2	29	15	14 35
2 Sydney United	15	8	2	5	26	15	11 29
3 Sutherland Sharks	16	8	4	4	23	18	5 28
4 Bonnyrigg WE	16	7	3	6	24	16	8 27
5 Blacktown City	16	8	6	2	27	16	11 26
6 Rockdale City	16	6	7	3	18	20	-2 21
7 Manly United FC	15	5	4	6	24	28	-4 21
8 Marconi Stallions	16	5	7	4	19	18	1 19
9 Bankstown City	16	5	8	3	22	32	-10 18
10 South Coast	15	4	10	11	19	29	-10 13
11 APIA Leichhardt	16	3	9	4	18	30	-12 13
12 Parramatta FC	15	3	10	2	13	25	-12 11

Queensland Results

NQ Razorbacks 2 (Crowley 63, Bowater 77) v FNQ Bulls 4 (Rusch 10, Cater 32, 40, Owens 84)

Whitsunday Miners 2 (Mundy 70, Neeve 83) v Sunshine Coast Fire 0

Bundaberg Spirit 3 (Youngberry 43, Miles 79, Stephenson 90p) v Capricorn Cougars 3 (Millar 23, Hern 55, Thompson 76)

Gold Coast Stars 1 v Brisbane Strikers 0

Southern Youth
Southern Cross 0 v Qld Academy Sport 2
Bundaberg Spirit 1 v Sunshine Coast Fire 2
SWQ v Logan Strikers (match postponed)
Sunshine Coast Zone v Gympie Fire (match postponed)

Gold Coast Stars 4 v Brisbane Strikers 0

Northern Youth
NQ 7 v FNQ 1

Next Round

Brisbane Strikers v Whitsunday Miners
Sat 23-July 7:00pm

Capricorn Cougars v NQ Razorbacks
Sat 23-July 7:00pm

Sunshine Coast FC v Bundaberg Spirit
Sun 24-July 2:00pm

QAS v Gold Coast Stars
Sun 24-July 4:00pm

FNQ Bulls v BYE

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD Pts
1 Sunshine Coast	14	9	3	2	44	11	33 30
2 Brisbane Strikers	14	9	1	4	41	16	25 28
3 FNQ Bulls	15	8	3	4	40	23	17 27
4 Whitsunday Miners	14	7	4	3	26	17	9 25
5 QLD AoS	15	6	5	4	32	26	6 23
6 Gold Coast Stars	14	6	3	5	24	24	0 21
7 NQ Razorbacks	15	4	5	6	35	31	4 17
8 Bundaberg Spirit	14	1	2	11	14	53	-39 5
9 Capricorn Cougars	15	0	4	11	13	68	-55 4

Nichols and Alister Quinn saw off the invitational side after Brisbane held the lion's share of possession for the full 90 minutes.

Fire Put Out at Harrup Park

Gold Coast Stars.

The Miners enterprise attacking play eventually found a way through the Fire defence but it wasn't White or Bradford that made the breakthrough, instead club stalwart Troy Mundy gave his side the lead in the 70th minute.

Whitsunday were 2-0 ahead thirteen minutes later, Brett Neeve adding a second to put Sunshine Coast two goals behind.

The last seven minutes were a tense affair, the home side managing to avoid a late comeback to secure an extremely valuable three points.

Bundaberg was the scene of another important match, though for different reasons as Bundaberg Spirit and Capricorn Cougars faced off in a match that would likely determine the destiny of the 2011 Hyundai QSL wooden spoon.

Bundaberg won the previous fixture between the two teams this year, 3-2 in Rockhampton, their only win of the campaign to date.

On this occasion Capricorn looked the better early, taking the lead in the 23rd minute before Shane Youngberry leveled for the home side just before half-time.

The Fire have been in good form in front of goal in recent weeks, downing Gold Coast Stars and Capricorn Cougars 4-0 and 5-0 respectively.

However, that touch deserted them on Saturday night, a well marshaled Miners defence keeping the Fire at bay and ensuring that the score was level at 0-0 by halftime.

Whitsunday have been a revelation this year, particularly going forward, thanks largely in part to the play of Jamie White and Clark Bradford who returned for the match against Sunshine Coast after having been suspended for the Round 16 clash with



It's a mad scramble for the ball between Gold Coast Stars and Strikers. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

made no mistakes from the spot and the Spirit left the pitch having likely avoided the 2011 QSL wooden spoon.

Saturday's final match was the NQ Derby, NQ Razorbacks taking on FNQ Bulls. The Bulls have been on fire of late, winning their three previous matches, scoring 18 goals in the process.

The Razorbacks needed to win to have a hope of finishing in the top four but the Bulls had crushed those dreams by halftime, leading 3-0 thanks to goals from Joe Rusch and Steven Cater.

With their season reaching a crucial point NQ fought their way back into the match, Jacob Crowley and David Bowater scoring to bring their side within a goal, but that was as close as they would come.

Shaun Owens added a fourth for the Bulls in the 84th minute as they tightened their grip on third place.

High stakes games abounded in Round 17 and the closing match was another with Brisbane hoping to replace Sunshine Coast at the top of the table with a victory over Gold Coast

Stars.

However, despite dominating possession and creating several chances Brisbane wasn't able to find the back of the net and in the end went down 1-0.

ROAR PUT ON SHOW FOR IPSWICH

Brisbane Roar has maintained its unbeaten pre-season campaign, beating an Ipswich Invitational side 3-0 in front of an enthusiastic crowd of 3914 at North Ipswich Oval.

Goals from Thomas Broich, Mitch

Sth Hobart's 63-match unbeaten run ends



Walter Pless

South Hobart's unbeaten run of 63 matches ended on Saturday when they went down 2-1 away to fourth-placed New Town Eagles at Clare Street.

South Hobart had clinched their fourth consecutive Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League title last Sunday with a 7-0 demolition of third-placed Clarence United.

But, things did not go according to plan against a determined Eagles outfit that had managed three consecutive draws under new coach Stephen Pitchford.

South Hobart dominated possession in the game and midfielders Shae Hickey, Tom Roach and Jacob Huigslot were combining beautifully and constantly building up attacks through the middle and utilising the forward runs of left-back Loic Feral.

Eagles missed a glorious chance after just three minutes when captain Mark Page went on a run through the middle past several defenders, but his shot flew just wide of keeper Sam Kruijver's right-hand post.

Things looked bleak for the home side when the visitors took the lead in the 15th minute with a finely-worked goal. Jim Pennicott found Jonathon Lo with a pass out of defence and he released Huigslot down the right. Huigslot's cross eluded Andrew Clark and fell perfectly for Liam Scott to beat Nathan Pitchford with a low shot inside the left-hand post.

Things then appeared to turn from bad to worse for Eagles when they lost two



New Town Eagles' Jeremy Marshall (left) breaks away from South Hobart's Shae Hickey. Photo: WALTER PLESS

key players within three minutes of each other midway through the first half. In the 23rd minute, Chris Stingle replaced striker Alex Gordon, who felt dizzy and unwell. Two minutes later, the injured Alex Leszczynski had to be replaced by Jeremy Marshall.

Soon after, Roach almost added a second for South Hobart with a glancing header that hit the top of the crossbar.

But, Eagles drew level in the 37th minute after Daniel Brown conceded a free-kick just outside the box for yet another foul on Adam McKeown. Ben Whitehall's free-kick beat the wall and, although Kruijver got his fingertips to the ball, it flashed into the top right-hand corner of the net.

South Hobart came out more determined than ever in the second half and started to attack unceasingly.

Ten minutes into the second period, Jonathon Lo was replaced by prolific

scorer Andy Brennan, while in the 64th minute, another striker, Liam Scott, was carried off injured and made way for another up-and-coming young marksman Dylan Postma.

With 12 minutes remaining, Eagles incredibly took the lead when Josh Quan played a one-two with McKeown and beat the advancing Kruijver to give the home side a 2-1 lead.

South Hobart increased the tempo and Brennan was desperately unlucky with an amazing piece of skill in the 79th minute. The youngster juggled the ball a couple of times before unleashing a superb volley that clipped the top of Nathan Pitchford's crossbar.

Shortly after, Brennan was presented with another glimpse of goal and his powerful low drive just flew wide of the far post.

Eagles withstood everything South Hobart threw at them in the dying min-

utes to record their first win in 8 games and move into third place on goal-difference.

On Saturday night, second-last Olympia Warriors eased their relegation worries with a 3-1 win over sixth-placed Glenorchy Knights at home at Warrior Park.

The win put them 6 points ahead of bottom-side Beachside, who have a game in hand, and 3 points adrift of Knights.

A strike by Nick Meredith five minutes before the interval gave Olympia the lead, while Kosta Grillas made it 2-0 three minutes after the break.

Brady Cronk made sure of victory with Olympia's third goal in the 57th minute.

Andy Barron's penalty for the Knights just past the hour-mark was merely a consolation goal.

Next Round

Saturday 23rd July 2011
Statewide Lakoseljac Cup - Semi Finals

Southern Premier League

Saturday 30th July 2011
New Town Eagles v Tilford Zebras
Clare Street 02:30 PM

Kingborough Lions v South Hobart FC
Lightwood Park 02:30 PM

Clarence United v Glenorchy Knights
Wentworth Park 02:30 PM

Sunday 31st July 2011

Beachside FC v Olympia FC
Sandown Park 02:30 PM

Northern Premier League

Saturday 30th July 2011
Devonport City v Ulverstone
Valley Road 02:30 PM

Somerset v Northern Rangers
Cardigan Street 02:30 PM

Riverside Olympic v Prospect Knights
Windsor Park 02:30 PM

Burnie United v Launceston City
Montello 02:30 PM

Launceston United v Bye

Tasmania Results

Southern Premier League

Tilford Zebras 4 Clarence 4
New Town Eagles 2 South Hobart FC 1
Olympia FC 3 Glenorchy Knights 1
Kingborough Lions 2 Beachside FC 0

Northern Premier League

Devonport City 7 Riverside Olympic 0
Launceston United 0 Prospect Knights 8
Burnie United 3 Somerset 4
Launceston City 1 Ulverstone 2

Northern Division

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Devonport City	13	11	0	2	52	19
Northern Rangers	13	10	1	2	36	14
Prospect Knights	13	10	1	2	38	11
Ulverstone	13	7	1	5	29	22
Somerset	14	6	0	8	28	18
Launceston City	14	4	3	7	24	15
Riverside Olympic	13	4	2	7	20	13
Burnie United	13	4	0	9	23	14
Launceston United	14	0	0	14	19	73

Southern Division

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart FC	18	14	3	1	69	18
Tilford Zebras	18	9	6	3	55	33
Clarence United	18	7	7	4	35	31
New Town Eagles	18	7	7	4	35	31
Kingborough Lions	18	8	2	8	35	39
Glenorchy Knights	18	4	5	9	27	42
Olympia FC	18	3	4	11	26	48
Beachside FC	18	1	4	13	18	47

Chris McKenna weighed in with four goals, while Kamil Douglas, Jordan Douce and Robert MacDonald all grabbed a goal apiece.

Prospect Knights moved from third to second with a convincing 8-0 thrashing of bottom-side Launceston United away at Birch Avenue.

Somerset moved up a place to fifth with an excellent 4-3 away win over second-last Burnie United at Montello.

Fourth-ranked Ulverstone won 2-1 away at Mitsubishi Park over Launceston City, who dropped a place to sixth. In Southern League One, fourth-placed Tarroona beat bottom-side Southern FC 1-0 through a Toby Dove goal.



Luca Cetta

Western Strikers edged past Campbelltown with a 1-0 victory in Round 14 of the Super League at Carnegie Reserve on Saturday.

Samuel Tesfagabri secured Strikers fourth win in succession with a header nine minutes into the second half. Strikers finished the match with ten men following the dismissal of Captain Michele Lastella in the 83rd minute.

Strikers Coach Aldo Maricic was not completely happy with their first half performance but says his team came out stronger after the break.

"In the first half Campbelltown probably shaded possession, although we had chances," he noted.

"Perhaps there was a feeling of complacency within the boys. It was addressed at half-time and we came out stronger in the second half. Maybe a draw would have been a fair result, but you need the luck sometimes."

"Right now things are looking good, but let's wait and see how it pans out at the end of the season. We are pleased to be where we are, but we are still progressing – this is a young side, especially the defence."

Strikers fired the first shot in anger after just a minute, which was taken safely by goalkeeper Les Pogliacomi. However, it developed into a midfield battle as both sides struggled to impose themselves on proceedings.

The Red Devils twice came close, as firstly a floated free kick was cleared off the line and then player-Chester Jason Trimboli was left alone at a throw-in but fired across Takumi Takahashi's goal.

Calvin Mbarga was slipped through by Tesfagabri and, evading one challenge, he struck the outside of the post.

Western Strikers edge past Campbelltown



Scott Tunbridge scores for MetroStars against Modbury. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Michael Matricciani celebrates one of his two goals with Francesco Monterosso. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

The first chance of the second half produced the winning goal. Campbelltown failed to effectively clear a Strikers corner, with the follow-up cross met by Tesfagabri's head. Pogliacomi got a hand to it, but could not keep it out.

Trimboli pounced on a Takahashi error two minutes later but saw his low shot blocked on the line.

Mbarga was working hard and his endeavour down the right set-up Stephen McNeill, but he skied his effort.

Adrian D'Alfonso's header was pushed around the post by Pogliacomi.

A Strikers counter-attack led to a two-on-one situation but last-ditch defending saw the imminent danger cleared.

Lastella received his marching orders for a second bookable offence when deemed to have wasted time after the referee blew his whistle.

Best on ground for Strikers were

Tomas Maricic, Jordan Spadavecchia and goal-scorer Tesfagabri. Campbelltown were led by Domenic Signoriello, Paolo Beltrame and Captain Michael D'Aloisio.

Adelaide Blue Eagles hit three second-half goals in a 3-0 win against Raiders at the Croatian Sports Centre on Saturday.

Evan Kounavelis, Dean Kendrick and Kym Harris were all on target to ensure Blue Eagles remain a point above Strikers in the battle for third-place.

Scott Weidenbach was best-on-ground for Raiders and ably assisted by Adam Harris and Kingsley Francis. For Blue Eagles, goal-scorers Harris and Kounavelis were in the top three along with Adam Vizzari.

Adelaide Galaxy game themselves breathing space in fifth spot with a 2-0 win over Croydon at Con Makris Park on Saturday.

A goal in each half sealed the result,

with Lwandiso Cele and Paris Okai the goal-scorers.

Cele was Galaxy's best and was joined by Michael Doyle and Ryan Veitch. Croydon Captain Michael Papacharalambous led by example, with Alemayo Kebede and Daniel Christison also impressing.

A goal-fest saw MetroStars defeat Modbury 5-3 at TK Shutter Reserve on Saturday.

Metro moves to within a point of first-placed Adelaide City with the win, secured after a double from Michael Matricciani, plus goals for Francesco Monterosso, Joseph Polisena, Scott Tunbridge, Adrian Giacomelli, Matt Kelly and Rhys Devlin.

Best three for MetroStars were Tunbridge, Monterosso and Polisena. Anthony Solagna was once again one of Modbury's best, together with Kelly and Chris Dean.

Adelaide City was frustratingly held

to a 0-0 draw by Para Hills at The Paddocks on Saturday. The draw means City's lead at the top of the table has been cut from six points to just one in the space of two rounds. The Knights remain locked in the mid-table battle.

Russell Clayton, Alex Mullen and Aaron Turner impressed for Para Hills, while the top three for Adelaide City consisted of Nicky Budin, Paul Pezos and Eli Vlassis.

Adelaide City was frustratedly held

This Week

Modbury vs Para Hills

Jet Park 7:30 PM Fri 22/Jul

Adelaide Blue Eagles vs Adelaide Galaxy

Marden Sports Complex 3:00 PM Sat 23/Jul

Croydon vs Western Strikers

Polonia Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 23/Jul

Campbelltown vs Metro Stars

Steve Woodcock Sports Ctr 3:00 PM Sat 23/Jul

Adelaide City vs Raiders

Adelaide City Park 7:30 PM Mon 25/Jul

Standings

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
Adelaide City	14	11	2	1	39	13	26	35
Metro Stars	14	11	1	2	38	11	27	34
Adelaide BE	14	8	2	4	19	15	4	26
Western Strikers	14	8	1	5	22	13	9	25
Adelaide Galaxy	14	5	4	5	18	22	-4	19
Campbelltown	14	4	2	8	11	18	-7	14
Raiders	14	4	1	9	18	24	-6	13
Para Hills	14	3	4	7	10	19	-9	13
Croydon	14	3	3	8	10	22	-12	12
Modbury	14	2	2	10	15	44	-1	0

Balcatta closes in on Minor Premiership



Peter Simcox

Balcatta maintained their 11 point gap at the top of the Football West All Flags Premier League table after a 3-0 win against Inglewood United at the 6PR Stadium. United striker Rory Grant went close to giving his side the lead midway through the first half, but saw his shot crash off the woodwork twice in as many minutes.

Then Balcatta lost influential defender Adam Tong with a head injury before half time and United snuffed a chance of an upset, but Balcatta had other ideas. Former United striker Daniel Niederberger fired them in front with a long-range shot on 57 minutes, after good work by former Perth Glory midfielder David Micevski.

It was 2-0 ten minutes later, English striker Steven Burton playing a superb through ball to Niederberger, who fired past Oliver Taseski from six-yards. Three minutes later, it was 3-0; David Micevski's free kick was fired home by Jovo Pavlovic. Niederberger then went agonisingly close to notching a hat-trick but he was foiled by a magnificent block from Taseski.

Stirling Lions moved into the top five after securing a 3-1 win against Sorrento at Macedonia Park. Scottish striker Jamie Watt opened

the scoring on 16 minutes, a great through ball from Michael Pugliese sent Watt in on goal, and the striker finished with aplomb past Sorrento keeper Curtis Aspden.

Sorrento looked to hit back, but Lions custodian Cory Hugo produced a stunning save to deny Jack Doyle from point blank range, to keep them in front at the break.

The Lions doubled their lead on 56 minutes, Jamie de Abreu's pace took him clear down the left, he fed David Hunt, who in turn picked out Watt at the back post, and he finished clinically past Aspden from six-yards. Watt added a third on 68 minutes, firing home Pugliese's cross from the left to complete a memorable hat-trick. Sorrento's consolation goal came on 77 minutes, Lions defender Clayton Arnez deflecting Jason Mirco's cross into his own net, but it was too little too late.

In other games, the in-form Bayswater City let two points slip when Mandurah City scored late to earn a 1-1 draw at Frank Drago Reserve.

The home side, who had been on a three game winning streak, looked set to make it four when Columbian striker Gustavo Marulanda opened the scoring in the 16th minute. But in the 89th minute Bayswater defender Luka Njegich and Mandurah midfielder Graham Matthews tangled, the latter went down. Upon consultation with his assistant a penalty was awarded, which was confidently dispatched by Ivan Zuvela to give the visitors a precious point in their relegation fight.

Perth SC remained in second spot after a hard fought 2-1 win against ECU Joondalup at The Edith Cowan University Arena. Skipper David Onoforo gave them a perfect start scoring after only six minutes. They doubled their lead just after half time, Greg Sharland firing home. ECU scored in stoppage time to make it interesting late, but Ronnie Campbell's side ran out winners.

Cockburn City eased their relegation fears with a 2-0 win against Western Knights at Dalmatinac Park. A goal in the first minute eased the nerves of the home side.



Stirling Lions hat-trick hero Jamie Watt in action against Sorrento midfielder David Price at Macedonia Park.

Photo: PETER SIMCOX

Former Socceroos' keeper Michael Petkovic's long clearance found tall striker Scott McCulloch who volleyed home.

The important second goal came on the hour mark, striker Rory Feely made a darting run down the left before forcing a tremendous reaction save from Knights' keeper Frazer Siddall. But the rebound fell kindly to Declan Boyham who made no mistake from six yards. Both sides ended with ten men, with referee Josh Mannella showing red cards to Knights' defender Duncan Hind

and Cockburn's Ewen Grant.

In Friday's game Floreat Athena NTC trashed The Football West NTC squad 7-1. First half goals from Paul Van Dongen, Michael Van Dongen and Kyle Moran had the hosts in the box seat. But Reece Vittiglia gave the NTC some hope with a goal just before half time.

That's as good as it got for the young NTC side and further goals from Paul Van Dongen, Callum O'Connell, James Isaia and Liam Boland wrapped up a comprehensive victory for Athena.

All Flags WA Results

First Team

Floreat Athena 7 (P Van Dongen 10, 47, M Van Dongen 17, Moran 28, O'Connell 47, Isaia 60, Boland 7) NTC 1 (Vittiglia 42); Inglewood United 0 Balcatta 3 (Niederberger 57, 67, Pavlovic 73); Cockburn City 2 (S McCulloch 1, Boyham 56) Western Knights 0; ECU Joondalup 1 (D McCulloch 90) Perth SC 2 (Onoforo 6, Sharland 48); Bayswater City 1 (Marulanda 16) Mandurah City 1 (Zuvela 89); Stirling Lions 2 (Watt 16, 56, 68) Sorrento 1 (OG 7).

Reserves

Floreat Athena 2 NTC 3; Inglewood United 4 Balcatta 0; Cockburn City 5 Western Knights 2; ECU Joondalup 2 Perth SC 0; Bayswater City 3 Mandurah City 0; Stirling Lions 2 Sorrento 3.

Under 18's

Floreat Athena 1 NTC 1; Inglewood United Balcatta 0; Cockburn City 2 Western Knights 0; ECU Joondalup 3 Perth SC 2; Bayswater City 10 Mandurah City 0; Stirling Lions 2 Sorrento 1;

Next Round - State League Cup

Armadale SC v NTC

Alfred Street Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 23/JUL

Balcatta SC v Cockburn City

Grindelford Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 23/JUL

Mandurah City v ECU Joondalup

Hyundai Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 23/JUL

Stirling Lions v Inglewood United

Macedonia Park 3:00 PM Sat 23/JUL

Sorrento FC v Bayswater City

Percy Doyle Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 23/JUL

Perth SC v Floreat Athena FC

BGC Stadium 3:00 PM Sun 24/JUL

BYE v Western Knights

All Flags WA Premier League

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Balcatta	18	15	0	3	47	15	32	45
2 Perth SC	16	11	1	4	33	18	15	34
3 Western Knights	17	8	4	5	26	25	1	28
4 Inglewood United	16	8	2	6	36	27	9	26
5 Stirling Lions	18	8	2	8	33	31	2	26
6 Sorrento	16	7	4	5	23	22	1	25
7 Bayswater City	18	6	6	31	33	-2	24	
8 Floreat Athena	16	6	4	6	28	25	3	22
9 ECU Joondalup	16	6	2	10	34	14	-12	20
10 Armadale	17	5	2	10	24	36	-12	17
11 Mandurah City	18	3	3	12	15	29	-14	12
12 Cockburn City	16	3	2	11	23	44	-21	11

Champions Too Good For Blue Devils



Russ Gibbs

At the end of a week in which both teams played Hyundai A-League Grand Finalists the Central Coast Mariners, it was Canberra FC who ended the strongest and took a major stride towards retaining the second part of the treble they won in such convincing fashion by despatching Belconnen United 5-2 at McKellar Park late on Sunday evening.

In an exhilarating match the score was all square at the break after Victor Yanes had given Canberra FC a 1-0 lead in the 28th minute with his twelfth goal of the season before Dustin Wells equalised with a classic header, the 20th goal of the year for the Rock Premier League leading scorer. In a game that was evenly poised Canberra FC took control of the contest with three goals in nine manic minutes. Paul Ivanic slotted a penalty in the 53rd minute to start the amazing sequence before smashing an incredible effort from outside the area just two minutes later.

A blistering Adam Spaleta free-kick in the 63rd minute secured the points for the visitors and Belconnen's afternoon was made even worse when Wells blazed a penalty well over the crossbar when given a gilt-edged chance to get his team back into the contest. The score was reduced to 4-2 when Matt Valeri scrambled

home a second Belconnen effort but it was to no avail and Michael Spaleta's glorious individual effort made it 5-2 and left Canberra FC in an imperious position at the top of the table.

At Kambah 2 a hat-trick from striker Andrew Lawrence helped Tuggeranong United to a 6-2 win over Goulburn Strikers. United were 4-0 to the good after just 24 minutes and it seemed as if a large score line might befall the Strikers once more. However the visitors displayed some real character and fought back well to make the game more of an even contest. Lawrence had given Tuggeranong an early lead when he collected a long ball over the top in the 12th minute and nutmegged Strikers' keeper Steve Myers.

A superb flowing move between Daniel Beaumont and Chris Ruiz ended with a wonderful chip from Beaumont to double the lead before Alex Weber rounded Myers to make it 3-0 after 21 minutes. The superb start was concluded three minutes later when Tim Stewart was left unmarked to head home a Danny Moutrey free-kick. Goulburn responded with an excellent finish from Josh Strange to go into the sheds at 4-1 adrift. When Ben Hartin forced home a loose ball following a goalmouth scramble in the 53rd minute an unlikely comeback was on the cards. United though settled the nerves with Lawrence's second goal and the youngster completed a treble in stoppage time with a long-range effort.

Over at O'Connor Enclosed Canberra Olympic kept their faint title hopes alive with a comfort-



Robert Schroder (Canberra Olympic) slides in to win the ball from Goran Josifovski (Cooma).
Photo: NICK GUOTH

able 4-1 win over Cooma Tigers. Hristjan Tanoski gave Olympic the lead midway through the first half before Domenic Giampaolo scored the first of a personal double four minutes before the half-time whistle. The striker added his 12th of the season ten minutes after the re-start before Elyja Shah gave the travelling Cooma support something to cheer about. A late fourth, slotted by Oliver Wiederkehr, added

gloss to the score line as Olympic remained second on the table.

Canberra City goalkeeper James Ward saved two penalties as the visitors claimed a 3-0 win over Monaro Panthers at Seiffert Oval. Ward denied Panthers leading scorer Mark Shields and Dom Falla from the spot with two excellent saves that laid the foundation for a spirited City win and a result that sees them into third place on the

ACT Results

Belconnen United 2 (Dustin Wells 40', Matt Valeri 78') Canberra FC 5 (Victor Yanes 26', Paul Ivanic 56' (pen), 58', Adam Spaleta 63', Michael Spaleta 85')

Tuggeranong United 6 (Andrew Lawrence 12', 61', 90', Daniel Beaumont 18', Alex Weber 21', Tim Stewart 24') Goulburn Strikers 2 (Josh Strange 45', Ben Hartin 53')

Canberra Olympic 4 (Hristjan Tanoski 26', Domenic Giampaolo 41', 55', Oliver Wiederkehr 84') Cooma Tigers 1 (Elyja Shah 57')

Monaro Panthers 0 Canberra City 3 (Rob Perry 7', Misko Naumoski 25', Ross Edwards 60')

Next Round

Monaro v Belconnen United

McKellar Park 7:00 PM Wed 20/JUL

TUFC v Canberra City

Kambah 3:00 PM Sat 23/JUL

Canberra FC v Canberra Olympic

Deakin Stadium 3:00 PM Sun 24/JUL

Cooma SC v Belconnen United

Nijong Oval 3:00 PM Sun 24/JUL

Woden Valley v Goulburn Strikers

Woden Park Enclosed 3:00 PM Sun 24/JUL

BYE v Cooma SC

ACT Standings

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Canberra FC	09	9	0	52	10	+42	27	
2 Canberra Olympic	11	8	2	1	43	15	+28	23
3 Canberra City	11	6	1	4	40	15	+25	19
4 Belconnen United	10	6	1	3	40	22	+18	19
5 Woden Valley	10	3	3	4	32	22	+10	12
6 Monaro Panthers	11	3	2	6	26	23	+3	11
7 Tuggeranong Utd	11	3	2	6	21	27	-6	11
8 Cooma Tigers	10	3	1	6	20	32	-12	10
9 Goulburn Strikers	11	0	0	11	5	112	-107	0

LEADING SCORERS

	Player	Team	Goals
20	Dustin WELLS	Belconnen United	12
16	Mark SHIELDS	Monaro Panthers	11
14	Paul IVANIC	Canberra FC	10
13	Misko NAUMOSKI	Canberra City	9
12	Domenic GIAMPAOLO	Canberra Olympic	9
11	Victor YANES	Canberra FC	9
10	Alex OLORIEGBE	Woden Valley	8

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WAG OF THE WEEK



**Danielle Lineker Age: 32
Scored with Gary Lineker (Ex-England)**



Couch Potato Dept.

* ALL TIMES ARE AEST



SBS ONE
Monday July 18th
10:30 PM Futbol Mundial
11:30 PM The World Game - Highlights of the Semi-finals and Final of the Women's World Cup

Wednesday July 20th
10:30 AM Copa América 2011: Semi-final 1 - Live from Estadio Ciudad de La Plata, La Plata, Argentina.

Thursday July 21st
10:30 AM Copa América 2011: Semi-final 2 - Live from Estadio Malvinas Argentinas, Mendoza, Argentina.

Sunday July 24th
10:30 AM Football Asia
11:00 AM Les Murray's Football Feature: Copa América 2011 - Highlights of the Semi-finals
12:00 PM Futbol Mundial

Monday July 25th
04:30 AM Copa América 2011: Final - Live from Estadio Monumental Antonio Vespucio Liberti, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

11:30 PM The World Game - Highlights from the Copa América 2011 Semi-finals and Final.

SBS TWO
Sunday July 17th
09:00 PM FIFA Women's World Cup Germany 2011 Highlights



The Futbol Town Show
Every Tuesday 7pm

Extra Time Magazine Show
Every Tuesday 7.30pm

SMFC TV
Channel 31
Every Wed 7pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday 10.30am

Monday July 18th
09:30 PM The World Game - Highlights of the Semi-finals and Final of the FIFA Women's World Cup Germany 2011

Thursday July 21st
10:50 PM Film: The Miracle of Bern - A soccer-crazy 11-year-old boy dreams of watching Germany play in the World Cup in Bern in 1954. Winner of the Audience Award at the 2004 German Film Awards. Written and directed by Sönke Wortmann, and stars Louis Klamroth, Peter Lohmeyer and Johanna Gastdorf. (In German, English subtitles)

Monday July 25th
09:30 PM The World Game - Highlights from the Copa América 2011 Semi-finals and Final



Saturday 16-July
J-League Kawasaki Frontale v Kashiba Rayos 8pm **LIVE**

Sunday 17-July
Copa America Quarter-Final Colombia v Peru 4:50am **LIVE**
Copa America Quarter-Final Argentina v Uruguay 8:05am **LIVE**

Monday 18-July
Copa America Quarter-Final Brazil v Paraguay 4:50am **LIVE**
Copa America Quarter-Final Chile v Venezuela 8:05am **LIVE**

Wednesday 20-July
Copa America Semi-Final 10:35am **LIVE**

Thursday 21-July
Copa America Semi-Final 10:35am **LIVE**

Saturday 23-Jul
Scottish Premier League Rangers v Hearts 9:25pm **LIVE**
J-League Yokohama F Marinos v Vissel Kobe 11:30pm

Sunday 24-Jul
Copa America Semi-Final 4:50am **LIVE**
Scottish Premier League Hibernian v Celtic 9:25pm **LIVE**

Monday 25-Jul
Copa America Final 4:50am **LIVE**

Tuesday 26-Jul
Scottish Premier League Dunfermline v St Mirren 4:40am **LIVE**



Tuesday 19th July
06:00 am 500 Great Goals

05:30 am FA Cup Classics (Rpt) F.A. Cup Semi Final 1990/91 - Tottenham V Arsenal

Wednesday 20th July
05:30 am FA Cup Classics (Rpt) F.A. Cup Final 1990/91 - Nottingham Forest V Tottenham
06:00 am 500 Great Goals

Thursday 21st July
05:15 am FA Cup Classics (Rpt) F.A. Cup 5th Round 1993/94 Wimbledon V Manchester United
12:00 pm 500 Great Goals

Friday 22nd July
05:30 am FA Cup Classics (Rpt) F.A. Cup Final 1993/94 Chelsea V Manchester United
06:00 am 500 Great Goals

Saturday 23rd July
05:30 am FA Cup Classics (Rpt) F.A. Cup 6th Round 1994/95 Liverpool V Tottenham Hotspur

Sunday 24th July
05:30 am FA Cup Classics (Rpt) F.A. Cup Final 1995/96 Liverpool V Manchester United

FACE IN THE CROWD



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GW photographer Darri Kennedy was on hand to capture fans at AAMI PARK when Melbourne Victory played host to visiting Scottish giants Glasgow Celtic.

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A Footballer's Guide to Training Compensation

FOOTBALL'S INSIDE STORY

James is the Asian Football Confederation's legal and international relations executive. A former professional footballer, James is an advocate for the good and well-being of the game.

with James Johnson

James Johnson discusses the ins and outs of FIFA's training compensation system in the following article.

The Footballer's Guide to Training Compensation: 10 Questions answered by James Johnson

Training compensation was introduced to world football following the famous Bosman case which brought free-agency to players. FIFA introduced this system to encourage clubs to develop their players by rewarding financial compensation to those that invest in training. Administrators, agents, coaches and players often seek guidance on this tricky system. This guide answers 10 of their most common questions.

1.What is the basic training compensation rule?

A club owes training compensation to each club that has contributed to a player's training upon the player's signing of a professional contract or transfer before turning 23.

2.Who regulates training compensation and under what authority?

Different authorities regulate training compensation for international and domestic transfers. FIFA regulates international transfers, so training compensation due as a result of international transfers falls under FIFA's Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players ("Regulations") and FIFA Dispute Resolution Chamber ("DRC") jurisprudence. The national associations regulate domestic transfers. This means that training compensation due as a result of domestic transfers falls under domestic regulations, such as Football Federation Australia's National Registration Regulations.

This guide focuses on international transfers only.

3.When is training compensation payable?

Training compensation is payable when a player first signs a professional contract before turning 23. Accordingly, the status of the player must be determined, i.e. whether he is an amateur or professional. Under the Regulations,

a professional is a player paid more than the expenses effectively incurred from football activity.

For example, training compensation is payable when an 18 year old academy player (amateur) signs a professional contract with a Barclay's Premier League ("BPL") club, such as with the club I support, Manchester United.

4.When else is training compensation payable?

Training compensation is also payable when a professional is subsequently transferred internationally before turning 23. It is irrelevant whether the transfer takes place during or at the end of the contract. In subsequent transfer cases training compensation is only due to the former club.

Continuing with the previous example, if the player is transferred from United to Barcelona, then training compensation is only due for the time United trained him. Accordingly, the academy that trained the player prior to United is not entitled to training compensation as they were already compensated upon the player signing his first professional contract.

5.Can training compensation be waived?

DRC jurisprudence is clear that training compensation can be waived, but only by the club entitled to it. For example, in the case of a subsequent transfer, all training compensation can be waived by the former club as no other club has entitlement.

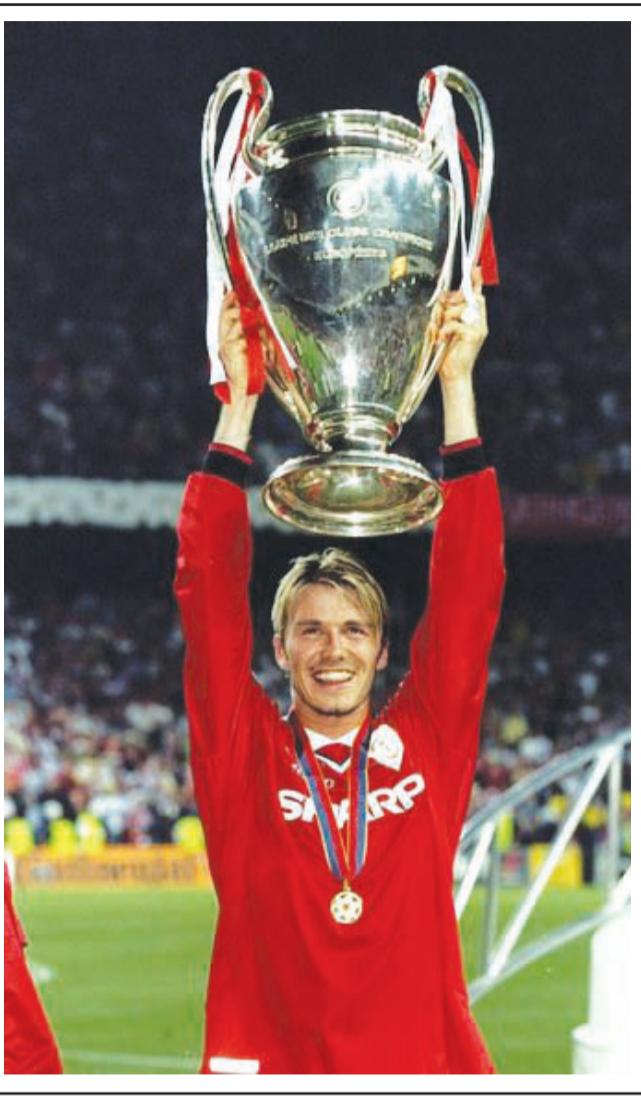
6. When is training compensation not payable?

The Regulations provide three circumstances when training compensation is not payable. These are where:

- the former club terminates the player's contract without just cause;
- a player transfers to a category 4 club (amateur);
- a player changes his status from professional to amateur on being transferred. If however the player changes his status back to professional within 30 months, then training compensation becomes payable again.

7.How is training compensation calculated?

Each national association divides its clubs into 4 categories. Category 1 clubs are the world's top



BARCELONA, SPAIN - MAY 26: David Beckham of Manchester United holds aloft the European Cup after United beat Bayern Munich in the European Champions League Final in the Nou Camp Stadium, Barcelona, Spain. Manchester United won 2 - 1 with both United goals scored during injury time, to secure the treble of League, FA Cup and European Cup. Photo: ROSS KINNAIRD /ALLSPORT

clubs, such as BPL clubs. Australian A-League clubs are category 2.

*Please refer to table below

To calculate training compensation, the training costs are multiplied by the number of years a player was trained between 12 and 21 (note that while compensation is payable up to 23, it is only calculated up to 21). Training compensation is then pro-rated according to the time trained by each club.

The following needs to be accounted for when calculating:

- training costs for players between

12 and 15 (4 seasons) is based on category 4 only;

- only the relevant period of training is calculated. Accordingly, if a player is trained for 1.5 seasons, training compensation is paid for this period, not 2 seasons.

Going back to the earlier example (question 3), assume that the player was trained by Brisbane's Mt. Gravatt Hawks between 12 and 15, then by the Queensland Academy of Sport (QAS) until 18 before signing for United. In this case, training compensation upon signing the "first professional contract" is calculated as follows:

- United are a category 1 UEFA club.

The current training costs are:

CONFEDERATION	CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3	CATEGORY 4
AFC	USD 40,000	USD 10,000	USD 2,000	USD 2,000
CAF	USD 30,000	USD 10,000	USD 2,000	USD 2,000
CONCACAF	USD 40,000	USD 10,000	USD 2,000	USD 2,000
CONMEBOL	USD 50,000	USD 30,000	USD 10,000	USD 2,000
OFC	USD 30,000	USD 10,000	USD 2,000	USD 2,000
UEFA	EUR 90,000	EUR 60,000	EUR 30,000	EUR 10,000

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10.Is the system successful?
Love or loathe United, we all enjoyed watching the core of their FA Youth Cup (1992) championship team conquer Europe in 1999 and develop into arguably the greatest modern day club. United like Barcelona, not only benefit on the field from player development, but enjoy healthy financial return, too. United received a EUR 35,000,000 transfer fee for Beckham after helping the club win the BPL 6 times, the FA Cup twice and the UEFA Champions League. United certainly made out well, but so did Beckham who developed into one of the greatest footballers in history – we, the football fans, benefited from watching glimpses of Beckham's magic such as his 30 yard free-kick which sent England to the 2002 world cup and his goal from half-way in the 1996/1997 season. Any footballer will tell you these were "training goals".

In principle, the system works because it promotes player development while generating money for clubs. It incentivises clubs to make, not buy players. The system can however be counterproductive in practice when transfers are blocked due to disproportionately high training compensation amounts. There are no winners here - players lose opportunities to develop, so fans do not see the calibre of player and spectacle they would have otherwise. Clubs of course suffer here too because no transfer means no compensation. Fortunately, the DRC has discretion under the Regulations to adjust disproportionate amounts. But the extent to which the DRC exercises this discretion is unclear and to some degree untested as there is little jurisprudence on this point.

Provided the system does not block transfers due to disproportionately high training compensation amounts, the system is successful. It works in favour of players who benefit from better development, clubs who are financially better off for developing better players; and, of course, fans who get to see better players and spectacles. Like all successful things in life, the system needs to continually develop. In my opinion, the DRC jurisprudence on disproportional training compensation amounts requires development!

Final 12 heats up for Cup glory

By Robert Di Fabio

The sixth round (Final-12) of the Mirabella Cup competition has ventured into its second week of proceedings. Thus far, we had witnessed a major upset when VPL cellar-dweller Springvale White Eagles put in a memorable performance to eclipse their highly regarded counter-parts Dandenong Thunder on their home turf. The 2-0 triumph cemented the Eagles' spot in the final-six and gives the outfit an avenue to play for, following their recent confirmation of relegation back to State League One.

The other Mirabella Cup fixture was the round five catch-up game between Ballarat Red Devils (State 2) and St Albans Saints (VPL). Given the Saints' turbulent season in the top flight, it wasn't overly surprising that the Red Devils claimed a 3-1 victory. Ballarat will now have the opportunity of facing highly fancied Hume City (VPL).

In further cup news, the FFV, Melbourne Knights and Cobram Victory have ultimately come to an agreement on their round six cup tie. The fixture will take place on Wednesday July 27, 8:00pm at Knights Stadium.

Heidelberg United (VPL) 0-3 Green Gully Cavaliers (VPL) at Olympic Village

The two VPL affiliates have been in a rich vein of form, amid both outfits occupying a spot in the VPL finals- with Heidelberg and Green Gully fourth and fifth respectively on the table.

Reiterating their cup journey in round five, Heidelberg United defeated old foes Preston Lions 4-2, while Green Gully made hard work of their 1-0 victory over recently relegated Sun-

shine George Cross.

Both outfits were illustrating their early attacking intent with several chances at both ends of the pitch. Neither team occupied clear cut openings on goal; however both teams were guilty of squandering decent opportunities to take the advantage.

The referee then blew for halftime, with the scores locked at 0-0. The tie was emulating a typical cup encounter, with both clubs showcasing end to end football at a frantic pace. It was evidently do or die for these two prominent Victorian clubs.

Reminiscent of the opening period, both sides had an all out attacking mentality, pushing several numbers forward with quick ball movement and a tendency to play a short passing game in search for the opening goal. However, both clubs were once again guilty of squandering repeated chances in good positions.

The turning-point of the game came late, in the 79th minute. A wide pass from the right from Vizzari on the right hand corner of the box. With time and space on hand, Vizzari looks up and releases a swerving left foot shot towards the keeper's far post. Diving to his right, Papadopoulos looks on as the ball strikes the post and rolls into the back of the net. The Cavaliers finally had something to show for the numerous chances in front of goal.

Green Gully didn't need to wait much long to double their lead, two minutes in fact. A low curling free-kick from Hockless on the left wing gets a slender flick on from Medjedovic and goes in at the far post. The Cavaliers held the advantage at 2-0 and effectively killed off the cup tie.

With the tempo of the game seemingly gone in the final minutes, Green Gully took full advantage to further their lead, courtesy of Cameron Drake



Northcote City's Dean Piemonte receives some close attention as Port's Tim Paton looks on. Photo: ALEXANDER KOSTADINOSKI

in the 87th minute. Jason Hayne collects the ball on the right wing and finds an unmarked Drake at the far post. The subsequent header finds the back of the net and spells with a 3-0 scoreline in favour of the Cavaliers.

Northcote City (VPL) 2-1 Port Melbourne (State 1) at SS Anderson Reserve

Northcote City have received mixed fortunes in the VPL this campaign. Sitting merely outside the finals position on the table, Northcote has resembled an outfit struggling for consistency and form at present. In the VPL the team has failed to win since its 2-0 feat against the lowly St Albans Saints.

Meanwhile, Port Melbourne have had an astonishing season in State League One, occupying first position and are seemingly en route to winning promotion back to the VPL. Their memorable 2-1 triumph over the prominent

South Melbourne in the last round of the Mirabella Cup was a fantastic occasion for the club.

Wednesday night encompassed a cold, gusty, wet event, with conditions not ideal for showcasing pristine skill and fluent football.

Nonetheless, the contest commenced with both outfits exhibiting their intent on scoring an early goal. With numerous chances at both ends of the pitch, neither team was able to take the initiative in the opening half hour. Many players had difficulty acclimatising to the conditions.

In the 38th minute, Northcote opened the scoring. Jason Trifiro took full advantage of an error in Port's final third, to finish a nicely timed strike.

Northcote further demonstrated their supremacy on the contest, doubling their advantage, courtesy of a brace from Trifiro moments before the half-time interval.

Both clubs came out firing in the sec-

ond half, with chances at either end of the ground. Northcote City continued to illustrate their dominance on the contest, occupying the better chances, putting Port Melbourne under vigorous pressure on numerous occasions. With a vein of fortune, Port Melbourne withstood Northcote's attacking foray and stayed in the game.

It wasn't until the 91st minute where Port Melbourne scored a consolation goal. Mark Tsioralis' well placed header from a cross on the wing was too little too late.

Moments later, the referee blew for full-time as Northcote City secured their place in the last-six of the Mirabella Cup.

Southern Stars (State 1) 0-2 Oakleigh Cannons (VPL) at George Andrews Reserve

The Southern Stars have embodied a luminous season in State League One and are a realistic chance of winning promotion to the VPL.

Their form has been memorising on occasions, despatching opponents on a regular basis. Their round five triumph over Bentleigh Greens in the Mirabella Cup would prove to be one of the season's highlights. On this day the Starts overcame the VPL outfit with a resounding 4-0 scoreline.

Oakleigh Cannons are progressing robustly for an equaliser on numerous occasions. The Oakleigh defence stayed composed along with Cannons' keeper Peter Zois, who was brilliant between the posts in keeper his side at bay.

The tie was ostensibly put to bed in the 72nd minute, when Frankie Lagana. Robinson found the unmarked man through a tremendous pin-point cross, who tranquilly shot towards the left hand corner of the net, leaving the Stars' keeper with little hope.

Despite the scoreline, the Stars never gave up and continued to prosper, desperately attempting to recover lost momentum pouring numbers forward in search of a goal. However it wasn't to avail as the Cannons recorded a comprehensive 2-0 victory.

Follow Robert on Twitter @Robert-DiFabio



Rising Star
with Daniel Quinn

Sebastian Mattei

Sebastian Mattei was born on 10th of February 1991 to Italian parents in Melbourne. His junior club was State League One side Fawkner Blues and after spending time with the VIS and AIS between 2006 and 2008 he joined Melbourne Victory.

He had spells out on loan to Heidelberg United and Melbourne Knights. During the 2010/11 A-League season he was Michael Petkovic's backup but was also the first choice for the National Youth Team (NYL). During the 2011 winter he has been playing with VTC in the Victorian Premier League (VPL). He has played 12 games for VTC so far this season with some impressive performances.

Sebastian Mattei and I had a nice chat about football, his current happiness and with Dean Bouzanis possibly signing on for The Victory.

DQ: Earliest football Memory:
SM: My first training session. I remember walking with Dad to my first training session with Fawkner Blues. Still remember to this day putting on my boots for the first time.

DQ: Football idols:
SM: Peter Schmeichel and Oliver Kahn.

DQ: Goal in football career:
SM: To remain a Pro for as long as I can and to play for Australia.

DQ: Would you consider playing for Italy?
SM: No. I don't think I would get the call up but if I did? No.

DQ: What made you want to play football?
SM: My Dad. He loved football and it reflected to me. He said one day we are going to training and I started playing.

DQ: Which club do you wish to play for?
SM: Juventus.

DQ: What are your strengths?
SM: My shot Stopping and agility."

DQ: What are you weaknesses?

SM: Crosses and my left foot.

DQ: How well is the current season progressing in the Victorian Premier League (VPL) and how was the National Youth League (NYL) as in your performances?

SM: NYL - Was inconsistent but I was content.

SM: VPL - Good. I am pleased with the current season with VTC.

DQ: Do you do anything different or special in training to improve as a player?

SM: No. Just to work hard and try and get something out of each session.

DQ: Do you do anything different or special in training to impress the coach/manager?

SM: Just to try and standout.

DQ: Do you feel pressure to perform? If so from who?

SM: Naturally you should demand from yourself.

DQ: What about from the coach?

SM: Nah, none.

DQ: Are you happy with your current club and situation?

SM: Yes.

DQ: What do you think of Dean Bouzanis signing or just about to sign?

SM: He is a good signing for the club. He is a good young keeper.

DQ: How does his signing affect your position in the team?

SM: I'd probably be bumped down. I'd probably have to look for another club.

DQ: Would you look for an A-League club or a Victorian Premier League (VPL) club?

SM: A-League but the VPL and the A-League are both good competitions.

DQ: Would you sign for cross town rivals Melbourne Heart?

SM: If I have to yes. I think Heart are a good club.

Sebastian pulls on the gloves as Victory under-study.

Photo: SYDNEY LOW



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Waratah Cup Winners 2011

PHOTO: DAMIEN BRIGGS/Courtesy FNSW



goal!
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Cup Final Details

Manly United FC 4 (Scott Balderson 46'; Adam Foti (pen) 60'; Jordon Edwards 67'; Justin Hayward 90+2')

Mounties Wanderers 0

Sunday 10th July, 2011

Bonnyrigg Sports Ground

Referee: Khor Yaghj

Assistant Referees: Nick Backic and Bachar Alam

Fourth Official: Steve Lucas

Manly United FC: 1.Dylan Mitchell; 2.Jimmy Oates, 4.Graeme Forbes, 5.Marc Richards (C), 6.Michael Daly, 7.Scott Balderson (11 Justin Hayward 69'), 10.Adam Foti, 17.Matthew Simm, 18.Colin Iley (13 Mitch Macedo 88'), 21.Joseph Gibbs, 9.Robbie Cattanach 57', 26.Daniel Grant (25.Jordon Edwards 84')

Substitutes Not Used: 22.Karl Ho Lee

Yellow Cards: Scott Balderson 46'

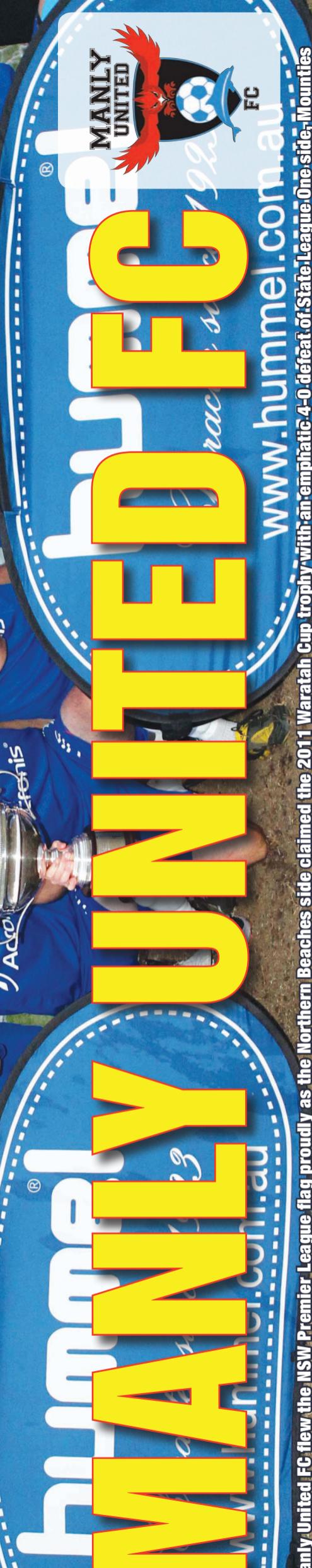
Red Cards: N/A

Mounties Wanderers: 1.Ali Akbari; 3.Tim Salvaggio (7.Paul Crisp 72'), 4.Greg Baldock (11 Peter Day 84'), 5.Joe Rodden-Ward, 9.Matthew Vera (10.Daniel Willoughby 57'), 14.Mark Symington, 16.Scott Goodwin, 17.Daniel McCann, 18.Marc D'Alessandro (C) 6.Troy McCall 51') 19.Ian McAndrew (2.Eli Squillacioti 51')

Substitutes Not Used: None

Yellow Cards: Mark D'Alessandro (C) 6.Troy McCall 51'

Red Cards: Joe Rodden-Ward 66'



Manly United FC flew the NSW Premier League flag proudly as the Northern Beaches side claimed the 2011 Waratah Cup trophy with an emphatic 4-0 defeat of State League One side, Mounties Wanderers. Following an evenly contested opening period, Manly United ran riot in the second-half with 'Man of the Match' Scott Balderson scoring a spectacular opener in the 1' minute of the half. Adam Foti made it 2-0 from the penalty-spot, before Mounties were reduced to ten-men following Joel Rodden-Ward's straight red card. Substitutes Jordon Edwards and Justin Hayward rounded out the result in the closing stages in what was a very polished second-half display by Craig Midgley's men.



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17

BDF Beiersdorf

Monday 18th July 2011

FULL NAME: Ryan Keith De Vries
 BIRTHPLACE: Cape Town, South Africa
 BIRTH DATE: 14/09/1991
 HEIGHT: 5'10
 WEIGHT: 75 kg
 MARRIED: Dating
 CAR: Don't own one at the moment
 NICKNAME: Ryza
 PREVIOUS CLUBS: Waitakere United
 REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS:
 Working on it
 INDIVIDUAL HONOURS:
 Chosen for New Zealand U20 football
 TEAM HONOURS: Winning the league twice in a row Waitakere United
 CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Keith De Vries
 FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Lionel Messi
 FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Marco Rojas
 FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Mark Viduka
 FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Tim Cahill
 MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Beating Auckland City 3-1 and scored a double
 MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Watching Barcelona beat Real Madrid 5-0
 MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: Too many to mention
 EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Scoring my first goal in under 7s
 FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Went out to play with my shirt on backwards haha
 BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing to Auckland City in the O-League
 WORST INJURY: Hamstring tear
 MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Ivan Vicelich
 FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Auckland City
 SUPERSTITIONS: Have none
 TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Pasta
 WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Speed, Finishing, skill, passing
 WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Defending
 FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Manchester United
 FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Cricket, Basketball, Tennis
 FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Kobe Bryant
 FAVOURITE FOODS: Anything my Mum cooks!
 FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Megan Fox
 HOBBIES: Relaxing with my mates, playing football, ps3
 FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Cape Town
 FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: Don't go out much haha
 IDEAL DATE: Movies, Dinner and some TLC hahah!
 FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Two & a Half Men, Inbetweeners
 FAVOURITE MUSIC: RnB, Hip Hop, Drum n Bass, House
 FAVOURITE FILM: Scarface
 LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Manchester United
 FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: Don't pay much attention to rumours
 BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My Dad and Andrew Jeftha
 BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Referees
 FOOTBALL AMBITION: Make it as a Pro
 WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? : Messi
 YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S HAL: Brisbane Roar
 YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S VPL: Bentleigh Greens!!!

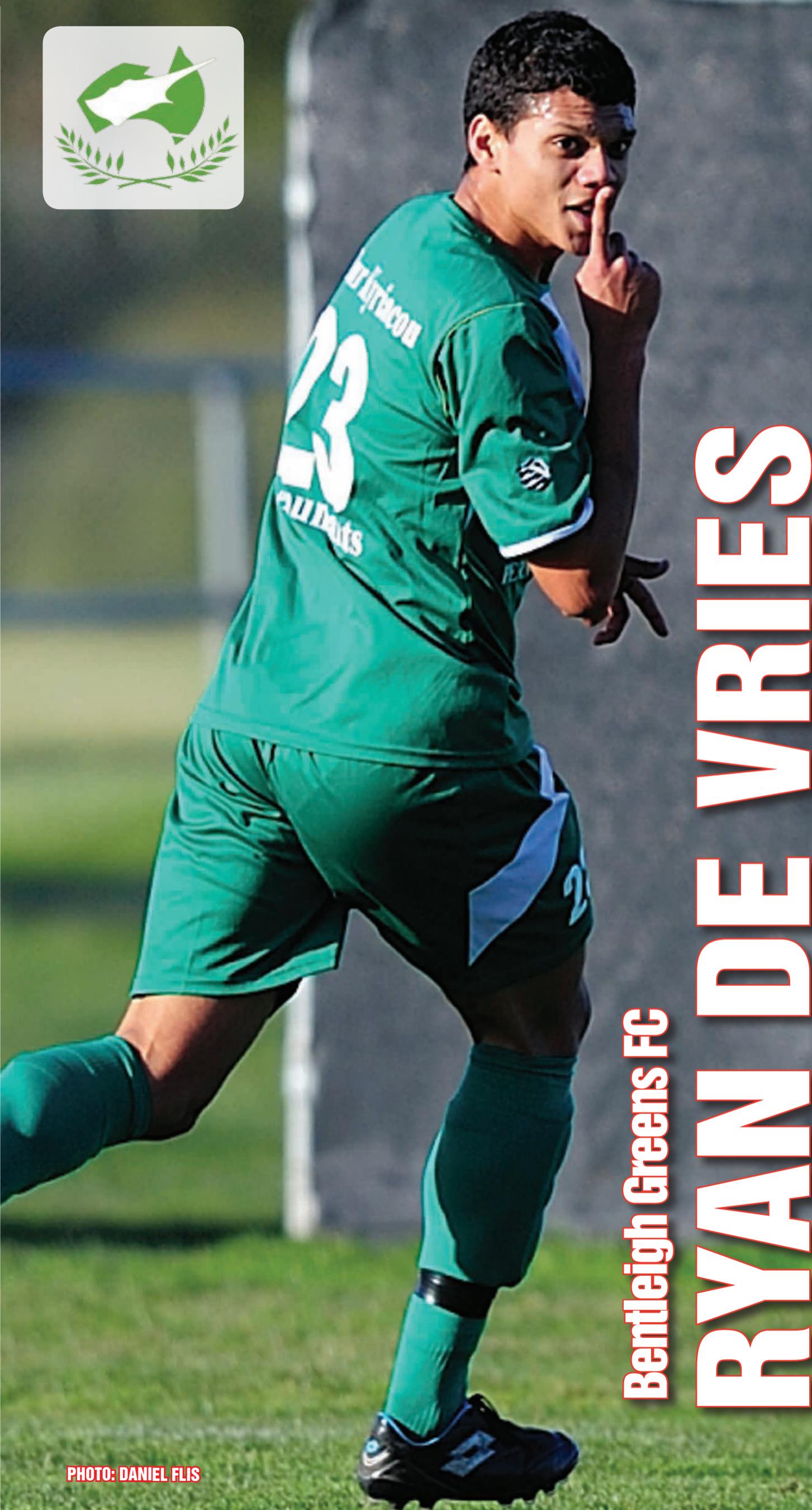


PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

Bentleigh Greens FC

RYAN DE VRIES

Cobram passed up Sunday option

MACKENZIE AT LARGE

With Craig MacKenzie

COBRAM Victory landed in the middle of a Mirabella Cup furore last week amid threats of withdrawing from the competition it has breathed life into.

The giantkiller from the Goulburn North East Football Association created a stir amid claims that it had been forced by Football Federation Victoria's competitions department to play its next cup clash against Melbourne Knights as a midweek fixture.

"We were gutted when Liam Bentley (competitions manager) told us on Tuesday (last week) that we had to play the game midweek," said Cobram president Tony Startari.

"It's not our fault that things weren't organised in time. No-one got back to us to ask for our preferences," he added.

There even was a post on the Mirabella Cup facebook page claiming that Cobram was on the verge of withdrawing from the competition. Here is the word-for-word version of that post, which was later removed:

"Cobram Victory will most likely be forfeiting their dream match against Melbourne Knights. The FFV wants the country side to make the three hour journey mid week in cold foggy conditions instead of playing on a weekend. This would force many of Victory's players to miss due to work commitments (as it would force many players to take ... two days off, half a day to get there and im sure not many would want to work after getting home at 4 in morning) along with Victory's large supporter base not being able to attend. This match is a massive deal for the small country town with many people wanting to make the trip to Melbourne (even non soccer identities) but will not be able to do so during the week. Its very disappointing that the FFV once again can not see past Epping, im sure if it was Victory's home game they would not make the Knights travel to Cobram mid week. Its a sad end to what has been such a great story!! VIVA Victory!!"

But the post was premature because at Cobram's regular after-training dinner last Thursday the players decided to go ahead and play the match and on Friday

FFV announced that the controversial cup tie was scheduled for Wednesday 27 July at 8pm at Knights Stadium.

You could almost hear the sighs of relief from FFV headquarters because Cobram's cup run has been the talk of the sport in country Victoria.

Startari claims that he recently spoke to FFV president Nick Monteleone about the fixture impasse and that Monteleone told him that it was too late to rearrange things.

"We've missed out on a great opportunity to promote the game," said Startari. "We even had the local member of parliament, Tim McCurdy, all set to come down with us on the bus for the weekend game but I guess now we'll be travelling down on a minibus.

"We'd planned to take all our supporters and some of the juniors down and make a really great day of it but we don't even know if we'll have a full-strength side now. And when we get to Melbourne we've got to find a trainer.

"A couple of our experienced players are going to find it very difficult to travel. As things stand the plan is to take as many of the players as possible down to Melbourne at 11am so that they can have a few hours to relax before the game.

"We've got apprentices that can't get time off and it makes things really difficult when you travel at that time and don't get back until two or three the next morning."

By now I was feeling desperately sorry for Cobram Victory. How could FFV treat the club so shoddily? How could we not come to some other arrangement whereby the tie could be played on a weekend?

I decided to email FFV Communications Manager Sean Burton in order to get a response to a couple of questions.

I then turned to Melbourne Knights secretary Melinda Cimera and by the time our phone conversation had ended I wasn't feeling the slightest sorrow for Cobram as Cimera sent Cobram's suggestions of unreasonable treatment sailing back over the club's head and out of sight.

"The federation and the Knights



Never On Sunday: Cobram Victory get a chance to dance the night away this Wednesday against Melbourne Knights at Knights Stadium KO 7pm. Photo: PETER KAKALIAS

did everything they could to avoid a midweek game," said Cimera bluntly.

"To be honest with you, they (Cobram) were given a Sunday option. They could have played us at our ground last Sunday (10 July). They knew about this for around two weeks before and I have absolutely no idea why they didn't take up that option.

"We were all conscious of the travelling involved, in fact I phoned Cobram's secretary and spoke to her about these issues."

Not long after Cimera had swatted away Cobram's claims I received a reply email from Burton outlining the federation's plans for the midweek cup clash at Knights Stadium.

Burton's email said, in part: "FFV acknowledges the travel issues involved for Cobram Victory with this fixture and as such we would like to re-iterate the extra steps FFV will be taking to assist the team, the local community and fans:

"FFV will cover the cost of a bus to and from the ground.

"FFV will broadcast the match on VPL Live TV, at FFV's cost, to allow anyone to watch the match, possibly utilising the club as a place to view the match together with other club members.

"FFV will be providing live match updates on social media of all key events throughout the match."

This is the first time that FFV has covered the travel cost for a club in the Mirabella Cup and prior to this announcement there had been no live broadcasts of any cup games.

To be fair I can't think of much more that FFV could have done to assist Cobram Victory and a

week that started with questions over FFV's seeming intransigence ended with the spotlight firmly fixed on Cobram Victory and its bizarre decision not to take up the offer of a Sunday 10 July clash.

Heart beats path to peninsula

MELBOURNE Heart is close to signing off on a September clash at Langwarrin's Lawton Park against a Peninsula Select.

Legendary Langy coach Gus Macleod will be in charge of the peninsula squad which is likely to be based on players from Langwarrin, Casey Comets, Mornington, Frankston Pines, Peninsula Strikers, Skye United, Seaford, Baxter and a number of Bayside League outfits.

The deal requires some fine tuning but the provisional date for the fixture is Saturday 24 September.

It's hoped that a mini kids' gala day featuring juniors throughout the peninsula can start proceedings in the morning with the expectation that those juniors and their parents will stay at the venue to watch Heart's stars strut their stuff.

Luring Heart to Langy is the brainchild of Pete McLoughlin, president of the Mt Eliza Junior Soccer Club. Mt Eliza juniors kicked off just over four years ago with eight kids and now boasts over 180 players.

McLoughlin is overseas but is expected to arrive back in Melbourne this week. No doubt he'll arrange more meetings to discuss his plans and more power to him.

I for one can't wait to see the

centre of Victorian football's universe head south of the Yarra even for just one day.

Irvine to face Barca, Man City

MELBOURNE teenager Jackson Irvine scored twice as Celtic's under-19s opened their pre-season with a convincing 11-0 victory against an Airdrie XI on Saturday week.

James Alabi netted a hat-trick while Rhys Williamson and Liam Gormley joined Irvine with a brace each. Curtis Jones and Omar Bogle also got in on the scoring act.

Coach Tommy McIntyre was pleased with the teenagers' excellent performance and described the run-out as "a very good all round exercise".

The coming season looms large for Celtic's championship and cup winning under 19's side which will play in an innovative competition against Barcelona, Manchester City and Marseille. The tournament will play out similar to the senior Champions League, with each team playing in a group of four before progressing to a knockout stage which will be played in the Middle East live on TV.

"It's fantastic and something we have been part of from the very beginning," said Celtic's Head of Youth, Chris McCart.

"It's a really difficult group and we are going to have six excellent games of the very highest standard."

"Our purpose is to try to develop a Champions League player and it will expose them to that and replicate what that's like at first-team level."

"It's exciting but it's going to be a strong and difficult challenge when you look at the investments of Barcelona and Man City, who (have) spent tens of millions on their academies."

"But we are confident the players will gain experience which will be vital to them in terms of the style of play and the travelling."

"We have signed up to it for the next three years and we are really excited about it."



Celtic teenager
Jackson Irvine

Two Vic lads in Lancashire

BAILEY Wright and Jamie MacLaren may be on a collision course with the date of impact this Saturday at The County Ground, Leyland at 3pm GMT.

The Lancashire FA Senior Cup Final sees Wright's Preston North End go in as the underdog against MacLaren's Blackburn Rovers.

Preston reached the final after a stunning win over Liverpool in their semi-final clash while Blackburn overcame Man U in the other semi.

Let's hope that both young Victorians feature in the final. If so it would be a first for the sport.



Preston North End's
Bailey Wright.

LOCATIONS INCLUDE:

CAMBERWELL
COLLINGWOOD
CARLTON NORTH
VERMONT SOUTH
CAULFIELD
GLEN WAVERLEY ENDEAVOUR HILLS

FOOTSCRAY
BOX HILL
PRESTON
HAWTHORN
CARLTON

MENS & MIXED
COMPETITIONS
0433 000 444
info@super5s.org
www.super5s.org



5-A-SIDE
INDOOR
SOCCER

All matches to be played on Saturday 23rd July with 3pm KO unless otherwise stated.

State NW 2

Geelong v Whittlesea Ranges FC

Stead Park Reserve Fri 22 Jul KO 8:30PM

Altona City v FC Clifton Hill

HC Kim Reserve

Altona East Phoenix v Westgate

Paisley Park Soccer Complex

Ballarat Red Devils v Moreland City

Trekardo Park

Banyule City v Brunswick City

Yallambie Park Res

Williamstown v Werribee City

JT Gray Reserve

State SE 2

Doncaster Rovers v Box Hill United

Anderson Park Fri 22 Jul KO 8:30PM

Casey Comets v Diamond Valley Utd

Comets Stadium

Knox City v Heatherton Utd

Egan Lee Reserve

Morwell Pegasus v Dandenong City

Ronald Reserve

Noble Park Utd v Malvern City

Parkfield Reserve

South Springvale v Eastern Lions

Warner Reserve

State NW 3

Cairnlea v Yarraville Glory

Cairnlea Park

Avondale Heights v Geelong Rangers

Doyle Street Reserve

Hume Utd v Sunbury Utd

Laura Douglas Reserve

Keilor Park v Maribyrnong Greens

Keilor Park Reserve

Sydenham Park v La Trobe University

Keilor Lodge Reserve

Whittlesea Utd v Melbourne University

Thomas Street Recreational Res

State SE 3

Berwick City v Old Scotch

Jack Thomas Reserve Fri 22 Jul KO 8:30PM

Waverley Wanderers v Doveton

Carlton Avenue Res

Mornington v Fitzroy City

Dallas Brooks Park

Frankston Pines v Croydon City Arrows

Monterey Reserve 23 Jul KO 7:00PM

North Caulfield v Nunawading City FC

Caulfield Park Sun 24 Jul KO 3:00PM

Kingston City v Peninsula Strikers

The Grange Reserve Mon 25 Jul KO 8:30PM

Provi NW 1

FC Strathmore v North City Lions

Strathnaver Reserve

Laverton Park v Essendon Utd

Laverton Park Reserve

Northern Falcons v Westvale

Hayes Park

South Yarra v Western Eagles

Fawkner Park (Northern Pavilion)

Surf Coast v North Sunshine Eagles

Quay Reserve

Sporting Whittlesea FC v Corio

RGC Cook Reserve

Provi SE 1

Warragul Utd v Mooroolbark

Baxter Park (Warragul)

Skye Utd v Brandon Park

Skye Recreational Res

Hampton Park United Sparrows v Lyndale Utd

KM Ready Reserve

Monash University v Beaumaris

Monash University

Sandringham SC v Old Camberwell Grammar

Spring St Oval

Springvale City v Old Melburnians

Ross Reserve

Provi NW 2

Bell Park v Northern Roosters

Bell Park Sports Club

Elwood City v Hoppers Crossing

Elwood Park

Melbourne City v Epping City

Edwards Reserve

Moreland Utd v West Preston

Moomba Park Reserve

Plenty Valley Lions v Lalor Utd

Sycamore Reserve

Upfield v Melbourne Tornado

Gibb Reserve

Provi SE 2

Monbulk v Uni. of Melbourne

Monbulk Recreational Res Fri 22 Jul KO 8:30PM

Old Carey v Ashburton United

Carey Sports Complex

Casey Kings v Boroondara Eagles

Betula Park

Caulfield United Cobras v Bayside Argonauts

Victory Park

Endeavour Utd v Seaford Utd

Reema Reserve

Keysborough v Ringersdale

Coomoora Reserve

Provi NW 3

Brimbank Stallions v Brunswick Zebras

Club Italia Sporting Club

Heidelberg Stars v Moreland Wolves

Cartledge Reserve

Meadow Park Eagles v Balmoral FC

Gladstone Park Reserve

Mill Park v Youth Utd

Findon Reserve

Watsonia Heights v Darebin Utd

Gabona Reserve 23 Jul KO 7:00PM

Melton Phoenix FC v Essendon Royals

MacPhersons Park

Provi SE 3

Baxter v Eltham Redbacks FC

Baxter Park

Whitehorse Utd v White Star Dandenong

Terrara Park

Collingwood City v Noble Park

Kevin Bartlett Reserve

Middle Park FC v Old Trinity Grammarians

Albert Park Field 16

Rowville Eagles v Brighton

Park Ridge Reserve

Old Brighton Grammarians v East Bentleigh

Dendy Park

Seniors STATE NORTH WEST 2

Reserves

Whittlesea Ranges FC 3 Altona East Phoenix 1, Brunswick City 4 Geelong 1, FC Clifton Hill 1 Ballarat Red Devils 2, Moreland City 0 Banyule City 0, Werribee City 2 Altona City 2 (M Esposito J Little), Westgate 1 (H Nunez) Williamstown 0

Whittlesea Ranges FC 2 Altona East Phoenix 0, Brunswick City 6 Geelong 0, FC Clifton Hill 0 Ballarat Red Devils 5, Moreland City 5 Banyule City 1, Werribee City 1 Altona City 1 (K Gjergjaj), Westgate Williamstown

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Moreland City	13	8	1	4	41	18 25
Whittlesea Ranges FC	12	7	4	1	21	9 25
Werribee City	13	8	4	1	22	11 25
Brunswick City	14	8	3	3	29	16 24
Ballarat Red Devils	13	7	3	3	25	16 24
FC Clifton Hill	14	7	4	3	19	14 22
Altona East Phoenix	14	5	2	7	21	13 27
Westgate	14	6	1	7	21	26 16
Altona City	14	3	3	8	16	25 12
Geelong	14	3	2	9	17	38 11
Williamstown	13	2	2	9	6	23 8
Banyule City	14	0	5	9	10	29 5

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Moreland City	12	9	1	2	44	14 28
Whittlesea Ranges FC	13	8	3	2	30	17 27
Brunswick City	14	8	2	4	33	18 26
Ballarat Red Devils	13	7	3	3	25	13 24
FC Clifton Hill	14	5	4	5	25	34 19
Altona East Phoenix	12	4	4	4	25	23 16
Westgate	14	5	2	7	21	13 27
Altona City	14	3	3	8	16	25 12
Geelong	14	3	2	9	17	38 11
Williamstown	13	2	2	9	6	23 8
Banyule City	14	0	5	9	10	29 5

Seniors STATE NORTH WEST 3

Reserves

Geelong Rangers 0 Sydenham Park 1, La Trobe University 2 (P Devuono C Clark) Cairnlea 1, Maribyrnong Greens 2 Avondale Heights 5, Sunbury Utd 1 Kelor Park 0, Yarraville Glory 2 Whittlesea Utd 2, Melbourne University 0 Hume Utd 1 (J Sehic)

Geelong Rangers 0 Sydenham Park 1, La Trobe University 7 (D Savic 3 J Chaban A De Lucas 2 OA Mora-Huertas) Cairnlea 3, Maribyrnong Greens 1 Avondale Heights 5, Sunbury Utd 2 Kelor Park 1 (B Sceri), Yarraville Glory 0 Whittlesea Utd 0, Melbourne University 2 (MA Cosmano BA Wojcik) Hume Utd 2

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Keilor Park	14	8	5	1	25	8 29
Avondale Heights	14	7	3	4	24	22 24
La Trobe University	14	7	2	5	19	17 23
Sydenham Park	14	7	1	6	28	23 22
Cairnlea	14	6	3	5	29	22 21
Hume Utd	14	6	3	5	22	18 21
Yarraville Glory	14	5	5	4	24	18 20
Melbourne University	14	5	4	5	18	14 19
Sunbury Utd	14	5	3	6	19	21 18
Whittlesea Utd	14	5	3	6	23	10 18
Maribyrnong Greens	14	3	1	10	27	41 10
Geelong Rangers	14	2	3	9	16	21 11

Springvale takes outright lead over Beaumaris

By Michal Skrodsky

Yep, another week has passed us and we're one step closer to seeing the full picture in this year's lower leagues. There have been some great games this weekend and I'll take you right through the matches that matter from State League 2 right down to Provisional League 3.

State 2 NW had few surprises, the main one being a revitalised Altona City holding Werribee City to a 2-2 draw at Galvin Park. Altona City mid-season revival has been astonishing and if it continues they will surely avoid the drop. Moreland City remain on top after a 0-0 draw at home to Banyule City but can be overtaken by Whittlesea Ranges who defeated Altona City 3-1 at home and have a game in hand against Williamstown. Though this league has tightened up considerably with only 3 points separating first placed Moreland City to 6th placed Clifton Hill. Next week Ballarat vs Moreland City promises to be a real hum-dinger.

State 2 SE saw Dandenong City back in the winners circle after a 2-0 home win to last placed Knox City. Their gap at the top is now back to a healthy 7 points after the chasing Malvern City were spanked 0-3 at home by Morwell Pegasus. Malvern are still favoured to gain promotion since they have a 4 point lead over third placed Box Hill United and fourth placed Eastern Lions who both had wins this week. Next week Morwell will fancy themselves at home against league leaders Dandenong City.

State 3 NW had Keilor Park's 8-point lead slashed down to 5 after a huge upset 0-1 loss at 8th placed Sunbury United. Avondale Heights are second and they got the biscuits at Maribyrnong with a thrilling 5-2 victory at the Greens. The 2-1 win for La Trobe over Cairnlea means La Trobe jumped into third and are 1 point behind Avondale Heights. Next week Sydenham Park vs La Trobe University should be a corker of a match.

State 3 SE had Waverley Wanderers midseason surge continue with a 5th straight win, this week 3-0 over Fitzroy City at home. The Wanderers are still 10 points off 2nd placed Kingston who got over Doveton 3-2 this week at Doveton in a tight affair. Morning-



Despite a valiant effort, Peter McVeigh (Beaumaris) just fails to stop Kosta Olabuntu (Springvale City) from driving the ball forward. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

ton are still sitting pretty at the top and this week the good times continues for the Seagulls as they smashed Croydon City Arrows 5-1 away. Frankston Pines put up a good fight against promotion candidates Old Scotch but still went down 1-0. Next week Frankston have a great chance to win their first match of the season when they hold 2nd last Croydon City.

Provisional 1 NW saw Corio retake top spot after a 2-0 win at home to Strathmore and a 0-1 Sporting Whittlesea loss on the road to North Sunshine Eagles in a huge crunch game. It seems like this league is a foul horse race with Corio on 29 points, Sporting Whittlesea on 28, North Sunshine on 27 and South Yarra on 26. Western Eagles had a fighting draw coming back from 1-2 down at half time to draw 2-2 with Laverton Park, the Eagles were unlucky not to pinch a late winner. Next week sees a top of the table crunch game with Sporting Whittlesea hosting Corio.

Provisional 1 SE saw Mooroolbark smash home 7 goals again this week, last week they won 7-1 against Lyn-

dale United and this week it was a 7-3 victory over Hampton Park. The big match this week was the first vs second in Beaumaris and Springvale City, Springvale got up 1-0 in a fiercely fought contest. This means Springvale has a 3 point buffer over second placed Beaumaris but Beaumaris has a catch up match against Hampton Park. Next week Springvale City take on fourth placed Old Melburnians.

Provisional 2 NW saw both top two teams win comfortably, on top West Preston some 4-1 at home to Upfield while second placed Moreland United also scored 4 goals in a 4-0 win on the road at Epping City. Moreland has a 5 point gap to the chasing pack in Hoppers Crossing, Lalor United and Plenty Valley Lions. Northern Roosters and Melbourne City drew 1-1 in a relegation battle royale which really helps neither team. Next week games don't get much bigger than Moreland United vs West Preston in a game that will decide top spot.

Provisional 2 SE saw Monbulk remain on top despite going down in a earth shattering upset to second last Booroondara Eagles 2-3. Old Carey could have taken top spot but Endeavour United beat them and jumped them into second place with their 3-2 win at the Carey Sports Complex. This league has tightened up again with only 3 points separating the top 6 sides but Monbulk and Endeavour have to play each other in a catch up match. Next week there is a relegation battle high importance between Casey Kings and Booroondara Lions.

Provisional 3 NW had some very interesting results. Youth United lost 3-0 to Watsonia Heights, which on paper looks bad but a vast improvement on their previous two weeks, a 10-0 and 11-0 drubbing. The top three teams all won, Heidelberg Stars 3-2 at Darebin United, Essendon Royals 3-0 over Meadow Park and Brunswick Zebras smashed 11 past a hapless Mill Park who are dead last. Third placed Brunswick Zebras have a 4 point lead over fourth placed Moreland wolves sug-



Springvale City keeper, Yehya Dimassi, manages to hold on to the ball under a strong challenge from Casper Janholt (Beaumaris). Janholt landed awkwardly and had to be replaced. The other player in the picture is Kasim Smerdick. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

gestion this may be a battle of those three mentioned teams. Next week it's the battle of the black and white stripes when Brimbank Stallions take on Brunswick Zebras.

Provisional 3 SE had the two leading horses take all three points, yet again. Middle Park won 2-0 over Rowville Eagles and Collingwood City won on the road 1-0 at Baxter who put up a great fight. White Star Dandenong almost pulled off a miraculous come back, from 1-3 down at half time they took the lead 4-3 in the second half only

to let in a late equaliser. Brighton and Noble Park also played out a thrilling 4-4 draw. Second placed Middle Park is 5 points ahead of Whitehorse United in third who is desperately trying to stay in touch with the two leaders.

Well football fans that's it for this week. As always get down to your team and help them get over the line, there are only a couple of months left so make the most of it. Be loud, be proud and support your team!

CRUNCHALOR!



Springvale City savour their first half goal. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Springvale City's Alua Klaric tries a between the legs tackle from behind on Daniel Cappelari (Beaumaris). Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

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South Melbourne takes top spot from Comets

By Dalton Woods

Round 15 of the Women's Premier League has started with a bang. Despite only three matches having been played so far, there has been a total of 17 goals scored – one of the three games was a nil all draw between the Casey Comets and Ashburton.

South Melbourne managed to keep up their form on Saturday, with a 5-2 win over Bundoora. While in the first half Bundoora gave themselves a chance of defeating, or at least tying, with the third placed team, in the second half South Melbourne broke away. The score at the break was 2-1 South Melbourne's way, but it turned into something of a blowout when South Melbourne piled on another three goals, with Bundoora replying only once.

This loss should especially affect Bundoora, given that they are on the brink of launching into the top four. On the contrary, this is a useful win for South Melbourne, who are hoping to consolidate their spot in the top two with the dangerous Box Hill and Sandringham outfits looming.

The second match proved to be an even more exciting display with a 9-1 win to Box Hill over VCL Country. While it was expected that Box Hill would defeat VCL, who sit at the bottom of the standings, no one could have predicted such a flogging. Especially after the half time score was only 3-1. It seems that the team manager must have roused the Box Hill players into some kind of furore, which enabled them to score another six unanswered goals in the second half. Next round Box Hill will face its greatest challenge yet, the top of the table Casey Comets side. This match, Box Hill's third last for season, will be very important in determining the top four at the end of the season, as they sit only 5 points behind them. Meanwhile, VCL Country may have a chance at victory next week against the similarly struggling Doncaster Rovers. While VCL Country are not in contention for any silverware, another victory for the season may restore some honour and dignity, having lost seven consecutive matches. Their last victory came in round 8 against Doncaster.

In the most surprising result of the round so far, the Casey Comets drew with Ashburton. This result was largely an upset, considering that Casey are currently on top of the ladder, while Ashburton continue to hang around the middle. Despite their average ladder placing, Ashburton are looking very dangerous, hitting an excellent patch of form, first defeating Doncaster four goals to nothing, and then drawing with the team with the best record. While Casey has been by no means struggling, they will hope to improve, in order to retain their top spot. This may, however, be a difficult task, given that they will be coming up against the in form Box Hill side in round 16.

There are still four more games to be played in the round: Heidelberg Utd v Doncaster Rovers, Sandringham v Altona, Heidelberg Utd v the Emerging Athlete Program, and the Emerging Athlete Program v Doncaster Rovers. This should prove to be a particularly challenging round for Doncaster, who are playing both games away from home. However, next week may provide some relief when they play against the only team below them on the standings, VCL Country.



Azize Erenli (Ashburton) clatters into Aimee Benton (Comets). Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Comets forward Tatyn Brown skips past Bella Carter Madej's challenge. Rosie Bureta follows up.
Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Ashburton's Maria Patrikis chips the ball past Casey's Aleisha Piper.
Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



WPL RESULTS

South Melbourne Womens FC 5
Bundoora Utd 2

VCL Country 1
Box Hill United 9

Casey Comets 0
Ashburton 0

Res:
South Melbourne Womens FC 2
Bundoora Utd 2

Casey Comets 3
Ashburton 0

WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Melb	16	10	3	3	47	16	33
Casey Comets	17	10	3	4	37	21	33
Box Hill United	17	9	3	5	41	28	30
Sandringham	15	9	2	4	30	12	29
Heidelberg Utd	15	8	2	5	23	24	26
Ashburton	17	7	3	7	27	25	24
Bundoora Utd	17	6	5	6	26	24	23
Altona City	15	6	2	7	19	25	20
Emerging Ath	14	4	2	8	30	40	14
Doncaster R	15	2	1	12	12	40	7
VCL Country	16	3	0	13	13	50	6

WPL Next Round

Emerging Athlete v Sandringham
DISC
Wed 27 Jul KO 7:30PM

Box Hill United v Casey Comets
Wembley Park
Fri 29 Jul KO 8:30PM

Bundoora Utd v Heidelberg Utd
Epping Soccer Stadium
Sat 30 Jul KO 2:00PM

Altona City v South Melbourne
HC Kim Reserve
Sun 31 Jul KO 1:00PM

Doncaster Rovers v VCL Country
Anderson Park
Sun 31 Jul KO 3:00PM

Sandringham SC v Ashburton
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex
Mon 1 Aug KO 8:30PM

WPL RESERVES LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Box Hill United	13	12	1	0	50	9	37
South Melb	13	8	4	1	42	16	28
Sandringham	12	7	1	4	22	10	22
Casey Comets	14	6	2	6	30	24	20
Bundoora Utd	13	4	4	5	15	17	16
Ashburton	13	5	0	8	24	28	15
Heidelberg Utd	13	3	3	7	19	35	12
Altona City	12	2	3	7	9	27	9
Doncaster R	13	1	2	10	9	54	5
Emerging Ath	0				0	0	0
VCL Country	0				0	0	0

Ashburton's Chloe Drinoczy takes on Taryn Brown.
Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

24 goal round stings title contenders Port, Zebras & Stars



Preston appear from the Gods to knock off Stars

This game was expected to be a case of David vs Goliath - and much to the shock of SL1 it actually lived up to the billing.

Preston who is struggling in last place kicked off the game gaining the advantage of a strong wind. The wind would prove to be the difference as two wonderful 25 metre strikes from 2007 VPL Player of the Year Tony Sterjovski put Preston 2-0 up at half time.

Stars Manager Dean Hennessey was disgusted with his team's performance and according to fans outside the changing rooms gave his team a firm talking too at the half time break. The SL1 highflyers Southern Stars came out hungry and with the wind were hoping to take something from this game but they must have felt they had a mountain to climb as Preston parked their bus and weren't prepared to move it away much to the frustration of the loyal away fans.

A late Joey Di Iorio goal wasn't enough for the Stars as Preston stole the three points. Asked by Goal Weekly after game on his teams performance and form Stars Manager Dean Hennessey said "Take nothing away from Preston but we played Oakleigh on Wednesday and we were little worn out, we were also missing our Captain Alan Mulcahy and Alan Kearney who are both key players."

It was just a tough day in the office they had a couple of chances and they took them." Preston host North Geelong next week realising they still have it all to do if they want to stay in SL1.

Goals galore as Bullen & Altoona play out entertaining draw

Altona came into this game full of assurance after last week's strong victory over promotion pushes Whittlesea Zebras.

The Lions were also desperate for points knowing a loss could put them on the wrong end of the table. In a very entertaining game, Altona came out all guns blazing as 14 minutes in Kocce Delav found himself on the scoresheet yet again this season.

The early Altona onslaught continued two minutes later as George Papadopoulos finished off a slick Magic move. Just as Bullen started some rhyme Altona created another opportunity this time Milos Lujic pencilling his name to the scoresheet.

Three goals in 20 minutes, the home fans were going wild and already celebrating victory. Only eight minutes later on the 30th minute mark Bullen kicked off what would only be remembered as a tremendous comeback, Oleksiy Khrapko finished off a fine move to give the Lions a sniff. Just as Altona were coming to terms with the goal, one minute later just after the kick off it was Bullen who yet again found the net, James McGarry scored adequately to make it 3-2. Just before half time Altona were silenced from another James McGarry strike, after a clever build up play from the Lions.

From 3-0 up unbelievably Altona had lost control and would go into the half time with red faces, 3-3 at the break. After the break 50 minutes in a well finished Daniel Peluso goal incredibly put Bullen in front much to the delight of the away fans, Altona were absolutely kicking themselves. Eight minutes



Andrew Le Page was in fine goal-scoring touch in front of goals for Pascoe Vale and notched himself a nicely taken hat-trick in the 3-3 draw with rivals Whittlesea Zebras. PHOTO: ALEKSANDAR JASON KOSTADINOSKI



Hat-trick hero! Andrew Le Page deservedly receives the acclaim from his Pascoe Vale teammates.
PHOTO: ALEKSANDAR JASON KOSTADINOSKI

later it was Altona goal sneak Milos Lujic who would save the day, his strike bringing the scores to 4-4. The match continued in the same entertaining way, it finished 4-4 with both team scratching the heads on what might have been.

Whittlesea comeback to snatch a thrilling draw with Pascoe Vale

Following a 3-0 loss to Altona last week promotion pushers Whittlesea were eager to get back to winning ways but Pascoe Vale were planning to rain on the Zebras parade following their impressive display against Preston last week.

An incredible turn of events saw Whittlesea appear to be all but beaten against Pascoe Vale, but a heroic comeback saw them salvage a 3-3 draw. A heroic hat trick to Pascoe Vale's Andrew Le Page proved not enough as Vale blew their 3-1 lead. After going down 3-1 a brave Whittlesea fought back with goals to Stuart Nicolson, Vincent Faherty and Taxiarhis Apostolikas to secure the one point. Whittlesea will welcome back young gun Ersin Kaya to their side this week as they travel to meet fierce rivals FC Bullen at the Veneto Social Club on Monday night.

Pascoe Vale meet another promotion pusher next week traveling across town to the difficult Kingston Health Soccer Complex to meet high flyers

Southern Stars.

Young Warriors edge past Sunshine

After stealing points from Stars last week Sunshine were hungry to go one step better against a youthful North Geelong.

Friday night clashes at Elcho Park are fast becoming the tricky trips down town. Slick second and eighth minute goals respectively to Reha Kurul and Robert Zadworny put North Geelong in the driver's seat in the first half. After the half time break Sunshine come out on the offensive and were desperately trying to find a goal. Both keepers were keeping fans from both sides entertained pulling off numerous saves to deny attackers. 75 minutes in Sunshine found the goal they were looking for from their midfielder Eddie Soares who for the second week in a row finished off a nice Sunshine move. The game finished 2-1 to North Geelong. After the game North Geelong Manager Ante Skoko spoke to Goal Weekly "very open and entertaining game which was enjoyed by both set of fans, both keepers also pulled off some nice saves".

Langwarrin upset Fawkner away from home

Langwarrin went into this game desperate to emerge from the



Eat my shorts! Zebras bounce back with a flurry of a finish. PHOTO: ALEKSANDAR JASON KOSTADINOSKI

wrong end of the table disappointed they went down to Western Suburbs last week.

Fawkner were just as keen to bounce back as they drew 2-2 in the Italian Derby against rivals FC Bullen on Monday night. Langwarrin won their third last away game of the season with a 1-0 victory over the one time Victorian Premier League minor champions Fawkner. Caleb Nicholes made up for his early penalty miss as he scored the winner in

the 40th minute as both teams were rebuffed by outstanding displays from goalkeepers Michael Sivilja and Pasi Schwalger, early in the first half two questionable penalties were both saved wonderfully from both keepers.

Asked about his team's performance and his team position going into the last eight games of the season Langwarrin Manager Gus McLeod said "we need pick up on our home form but the league is so open that

SL1 RESULTS

North Geelong Warriors 2
(R Kurul R Zadworny)
Sunshine George Cross 1 (E Soares),

Altona Magic 4
(K Delev G Papadopoulos M Lujic 2)
FC Bulleen Lions 4
(J McGarry 2 O Khrapko D Peluso),

Pascoe Vale 3 (A Le Page 3)
Whittlesea Zebras 3

Fawkner Blues 0 Langwarrin 1

Preston Lions 2
Southern Stars 1

Western Suburbs 2
Port Melbourne 1

U21s:
North Geelong Warriors 4 Sunshine George Cross 1, Altona Magic 0 FC Bulleen Lions 5, Pascoe Vale 3 Whittlesea Zebras 1, Fawkner Blues 1 Langwarrin 0, Western Suburbs 2 Port Melbourne 1, Preston Lions 0 Southern Stars 2

SL1 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Melbourne	14	9	3	2	24	13	30
Whittlesea Z	14	8	3	3	24	15	27
Southern Stars	13	8	2	3	22	15	26
Pascoe Vale	14	6	1	7	28	18	19
Fawkner Blues	14	6	1	7	18	13	19
Altona Magic	14	6	3	5	22	20	18
Western Subs	14	5	2	7	15	22	17
Bulleen Lions	14	4	4	6	15	17	16
Sun George X	14	4	4	6	18	21	16
North Geelong	14	5	1	8	13	22	16
Langwarrin	13	4	3	6	16	21	15
Preston Lions	14	4	1	9	18	36	13

SL1 Next Round

Port Melbourne v Fawkner Blues
SS Anderson Reserve
Fri 22 Jul KO 8:30PM

Langwarrin v Altona Magic
Lawton Park Reserve
Sat 23 Jul KO 3:00PM

Southern Stars v Pascoe Vale
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex
Sat 23 Jul KO 7:00PM

Preston Lions v North Geelong Warriors
BT Connor Reserve
Sun 24 Jul KO 3:00PM

Sun George Cross v Western Suburbs
Chaplin Reserve
Sun 24 Jul KO 3:00PM

FC Bulleen Lions v Whittlesea Zebras
Veneto Social Club
Mon 25 Jul KO 8:30PM

SL1 U21 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulleen Lions	14	11	0	3	46	14	33
Pascoe Vale	14	9	1	4	35	25	28
Fawkner Blues	14	8	3	3	33	20	27
Western Subs	14	9	0	5	31	32	27
North Geelong	14	7	2	5	25	18	23
Southern Stars	13	7	1	5	29	28	22
Whittlesea Z	14	6	2	6	25	25	20
Langwarrin	13	6	1	6	20	20	19
Sun George X	14	3	2	9	28	42	11
Preston Lions	14	3	1	10	20	37	10
Altona Magic	14	3	3	8	19	32	9
Port Melbourne	14	2	2	10	17	35	8

if we can get a couple wins on the board then suddenly we may be on the top end of the table, unbelievable isn't it".

Western Suburbs shock Port to emerge as Greek kings

The tone was set in the Greek derby between hosts Western Suburbs and league leaders Port Melbourne.

Both teams were desperate to take home bragging rights, last time these two meet Western Suburbs let go a 1-0 led to eventually lose 3-1 to Port in a sizzling encounter that seen 5 yellows and a red. This game proved very difficult for Port as Western Suburbs came out keen to knock off their rivals. Western Suburbs recorded a much-needed win in SL1, proving the better side in a match marred with plenty off yellow cards leaving home fans with bragging rights after the deserved 2-1 win. This week Port host the tricky Fawkner Blues at home eager to get their season back on track while Western Suburbs are tested with another derby this time with local rival Sunshine George Cross.



V-LEAGUE

NIKE PREMIERSHIP

Round 11



THE VICTORIAN HOME OF FUTSAL
FUTSAL OZ, 407 VICTORIA STREET, BRUNSWICK. T: 1300 788 799

By Matthew Montgomery

FC Melbourne v FC Prahran 1-4

The first game on the card to kick off 'Call to Arms' round 11 of the NIKE V-League was 10th placed Melbourne challenge Prahran in 6th. Prahran, who were going for their third straight win had an un-tampered squad from last week, whereas Melbourne had dropped Phil Robotis and re-called on former Lee Dore who last featured for Melbourne in round 3.

Tenacious Prahran defender, Clint Mogaoi opened his sides account by slotting past Harry Kitardis from a Maxi Avram pass. Prahran keeper, Michael Chami, from his own "D" hit a long shot all the way to the other goal, with the post only keeping him from the score sheet. Not wanting to be outscored by their keeper, Prahran forwards Marcus Barbosa and Ben Armstrong made it 3-0 before half time.

Melbourne forward David Fletcher could have scored but his back heel hit the foot of the upright. Fletcher then scored his sides first, when he opened the scoring in the second half. It was a case of being in the right place at the right time as 'Fletch' was on hand to deflect Chris Gospel's long-range effort. But unfortunately that's as good as it got for the dark blues as they battled and pressured their top 8 opponents, but they could not stifle the class of Prahran as Barbosa, Simsek and Avram combined well to really open up the second half, although Avram was the only one to add to their 3 first half goals with a stunning individual effort.

The only blemish on the game was a red card to Adam Husseini who put in an awkward tackle on Mac Guillou who was about to shoot on goal. So with their 4-1 win, Prahran are now only two points out of the top 4 and will be looking for their fourth win on the trot against Balwyn next week.

FC Essendon v FC Balwyn 2-1

The second clash of the night saw relegation threatened Essendon in 9th duel Balwyn in 12th. Both sides had two notable exclusions as each were to play without their top scorers as Essendon missed Alex Stevanovic through suspension and Balwyn were to be without Jason Barrientos.

The two keepers in the game also made their return as Anthony Cianflone and Frano Saric took to the pitch for Essendon and Balwyn respectively. The opening half was played at a very slow pace as both sides sat back and waited to pounce on the counter attack. This was not at all surprising considering that Stevanovic and Barrientos were missing! But it was Balwyn striker, Johnny Nikolakoudis who had three clear chances to take the lead for his side, but he was unable to convert his chances as Cianflone positioned himself well.

The youngster would be cursing himself moments later as Essendon's most prolific avenue to goal, Dusan Bosnjak, beat the challenge of two Balwyn defenders and slotted the ball between keeper Frano Saric and just inside the post to score the only goal of a dour half. The second half saw more of the same tactics played as Balwyn constantly attacked and Essendon sat on their 1-0 lead. The game took a little twist when big Tony Saric found Nikolakoudis on the edge of the "D" only for "Johnny Niko" to compose himself and beat Cianflone to make it 1-1.

Then, with a stroke of luck, Essendon were awarded with a free-kick which Boza Lajcanica was able to convert by slotting past both Saric boys and restore the reds lead. Toward the end of the game, Balwyn had the better chances to score as Ben Bodo hit the cross bar and scuffed a close range 1 on 1 chance in the "D" but the football gods had decided that Essendon would walk away with the points and leave the boys in all white ruining yet another missed chance to get off the foot of the table.

I should think that the transfer window beckons for both of these sides next week!

Nth Melbourne v Pascoe Vale 2-1

The prime-time match slot was reserved for the match that the entire V-League community had been waiting for. The top

V-League Classics open up title race



Brunswick are ecstatic as they smother Munya Nyadzayo (bottom of the pack) for slotting the winner just before the final whistle.

One of the largest crowds for a regular season game looks on as Pascoe Vale's Rodrigo (L) and Hara Yoshinai battle in the air.

Essendon's Dusan Bosnjak found it hard to play his usual running game as Balwyn applied heavy and constant pressure.

of the table clash. 1 vs 2. Bragging rights. The 'el clasico'!

In what was a real positive for the biggest game (and biggest crowd) of the season to date, both squads remained unchanged from last round, so the game was going to be a quality affair. There were fireworks right from the first whistle as it was quite clear that North were not going to let Pascoe Vale play their usual passing game.

North manager Milton Sakkos constantly screaming "Press! Press!" at every opportunity. Both keepers were tested early on, having to deal with long range efforts, but it was Pascoe Vale's Jamie Tran who gave way first as Alex Jankovic opened the scoring from an Adam Cooper free kick. To be fair to Tran, his view was obstructed by team mate Rodrigo Evangelista. North's key playmaker, Tiago Priori then doubled the league leaders lead by pouncing on a loose ball then slotting past Tran from a 1 on 1 opportunity.

With Pascoe Vale feeling the heat and trying to get back into the game, they were given a golden ticket to score their first through a penalty, but the pressure seemed too much to bare for the usually reliable Joao Da Silva who hit the ball straight into Christos Apostolakis. But Da Silva was able to redeem himself soon after as he scored Pascoe Vale's first with only second remaining before the break.

The scene was certainly set for a fiery second half, and that's certainly what the crowd were delivered as the two best sides that the Nike V-League has to offer tried to break through each others sturdy defence – a feat which neither could achieve for the entire half! The closest chances came very late in the game when Priori's too poker hit the under side of the crossbar and when Andre Caro (who had a rather quiet night by his standards) hit the foot off Apostolakis' left post. So with the score unchanged in the

second half, it meant that North ran out 2-1 winners and now move 8 points clear on top of the table! But something tells me that Pascoe Vale will be back.

There are a few transfers coming their way. And as for North, it is a small step toward the title, with another 11 rounds to go! But a step forward none the less.

Ashburton FC v Hume FC 6-5

It was always going to be difficult to be the next game scheduled after such a big game, but with the quality within Ashburton (7th) and Hume (8th) it wouldn't be hard to rule out a close finish.

Ashburton's keeper merry-go-round kept on spinning as former keeper, Chris Katsikogiannis made his return since round 8 and the other change was that defender Manny Karas was unavailable. Hume were able to call on the services of big guns Mahmet Parlak and Turhan Sumbol – also their top scorer! To start proceedings, Hume's often hot and cold striker, Burukhan Koca, booted what could have been goal of the week with a stunning run up the left side-line and sent the ball into the top right hand corner.

Ashburton's main defender, Moe Alhorabi, levelled the score by shooting from distance from James Blackburn's corner. But Hume would regain the lead by the end of half time with Koca setting up Mehmet Parlak to toe-poke into Katsiogiannis' left hand corner.

The second half started more brightly for the green machine as Simon La Manda took advantage of a loose ball in the "D" and chipped over Con Makris. But Hume would come back to dominate the next ten minutes and score the next three goals, two from Koca – including a free-kick – and Parlak scored his second for the game, being set up by an excellent Koca through ball.

Then at the point of no return and looking

at a 5-2 deficit, Ashburton needed a hero, someone to really turn the game around. Enter "mercurial one" James Blackburn. Blackburn single handedly got his side back into the game with an extremely quick hat trick, and with Simon La Manda's deflection off Ravel Tavares' long thumping shot, it gave Ashburton an impressive 6-5 win. It was an important result as the Green Machine now go 7 points ahead of Hume, and Hume are now in the relegation zone.

But they have a chance to get out next week when they face 8th placed Essendon next week, where they should fancy their chances as they're playing some entertaining futsal.

CF Brunswick v Fitzroy FC 8-7

For the third game in a row, the spectators were lucky enough to see the third match in a row where table rivals went head to head as we saw Brunswick in 4th battle with Fitzroy in 3rd.

Brunswick lost influential keeper Brendan Chen but gained Carlos Monuz – who's at his third club this season – and also gained their biggest player in Danny Ngaluafae. Fitzroy also gave a debut to the very promising Sahand Mehkhvari.

The game kicked off with Fitzroy going to a two goal lead through Arjomand and Mehkhvari, only for Mike Sharples to twice score two close range goals and make it 2-2. Brunswick defender, Damir Marusic, then turned the ball into his own net as he intercepted a Fitzroy cross, but fortunately reds striker Munya Nyadzayo was on hand to dispossess an unsuspecting Sahand and slot past Dianoosh Rasoulzadeh to make it 3-3 at the break.

The second half opened up with Sahand completing an impressive double to complete his impressive debut, giving his side a creative edge in the game. Brunswick then

responded with the next three goals as Munya got his second and Ngaluafae also celebrated his comeback with two of his own to really reiterate that he is so important in the big games for this Brunswick side, giving them a 6-4 lead. Many would have thought that Brunswick could have taken the game out from here, but a spanner was thrown into the works when Haider Noor scored a quick double, one goal was an impressive chip over Monuz that sent the crowd into a spin!

Soon after seemingly being knocked out by a bad tackle by Rasoulzadeh, Captain Mathieu Piga, from the resulting free kick put his side back in the lead. Then from the next kick off, Noor stepped up and levelled the scores again to break Brunswick's hearts with the clock running out. In the last minute, Munya had a chance for his third and to hit the winner into an open net but his shot flew over the bar.

But with less than ten seconds on the clock, Munya earned his redemption by slotting the winner – the killer pass coming from who else but Ngaluafae! What a win and what a comeback! Seems the reds are hitting form before yet another big clash with Metropolitan next week. Fitzroy will have to bounce back against Melbourne.

Albert Park v Metropolitan FC 6-10

The final game of the night saw a much more one sided match (on paper) as 5th Metropolitan played Albert Park in 11th. Metro manager Alija Redzepovic had a much more organised squad this week as he added keeper Yane Coeski, Dion Portelli and mercurial forward Ivan Zilic.

Albert Park, going through a managerial change saw Alex Areggin make 4 new changes with keeper Ante Raspudic, Lee Kelly, Sam Grosso and Dan McGrath make their debuts.

V-League Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Nth Melbourne FC	11	10	1	0	92	43	49	31
2 Pascoe Vale FC	10	7	2	1	57	28	29	23
3 Fitzroy FC	10	7	0	3	65	49	16	21
4 CF Brunswick	11	6	1	4	72	58	14	19
5 Metropolitan FC	10	6	1	3	66	64	2	19
6 FC Prahran	11	5	2	4	68	72	-4	17
7 Ashburton FC	11	5	2	4	51	51	0	17
8 FC Essendon	10	4	1	5	51	75	-24	13
9 Hume FC	11	3	1	7	53	64	-11	10
10 FC Melbourne	11	3	0	8	39	63	-24	9
11 Albert Park FC	11	1	1	9	51	92	-37	4
12 FC Balwyn	11	1	0	10	37	62	-25	3

NIKE V-LEAGUE RESULTS

Round 11 Wed July 13th

- 6:30 FC Melbourne v FC Prahran 1 - 4
- 7:15 FC Essendon v FC Balwyn 2 - 1
- 8:00 Nth Melbourne FC v Pascoe Vale FC 2 - 1
- 8:45 Ashburton FC v Hume FC 6 - 5
- 9:30 CF Brunswick v Fitzroy FC 8 - 7
- 10:15 Albert Park FC v Metropolitan FC 6 - 10

NIKE V-LEAGUE ROUND 12

Wed July 20th

- 6:30 Fitzroy FC v FC Melbourne
- 7:15 Metropolitan FC v CF Brunswick
- 8:00 Pascoe Vale FC v Albert Park FC
- 8:45 Nth Melbourne FC v Ashburton FC
- 9:30 Hume FC v FC Essendon
- 10:15 FC Balwyn v FC Prahran

NIKE V-LEAGUE Top Goal Scorers

1) J. Blackburn AFC	26
2) M. Nyadzayo CFB	24
3) C. Holmes FFC	21
4) M. Avram FCP	21
5) A. Redzepovic Metro FC	21

Photos By MATT MONTGOMERY & THEO SOUFIS

Catch The Futbol Town Show every Tuesday 7pm on C31 and C44Digital

After a glowing start in their first match under Areggin last week (8-9 loss to Fitzroy), Albert Park didn't start as brightly as they went 3-0 down with Izzad Spjodic and Ivan Zilic scoring – both players assisted each other to score! So it was a great start for Zilic in only his 5th game of the season. Magical 'Zilo' also had a hand in the 3rd goal as his side-ball feed up Jusuf Avdic to blast from long range and actually put a hole in the net! But through some good passages of play, Albert Park – still an unknown quantity – bit back with nippy Sam Wade scoring one and setting up debutant with a lovely through ball for Lee Kelly to make it 3-2. Zilic, before half time, continued his great start as he stole the ball off Kelly and make a blistering run toward goal and make it 4-2 at the break.

The second half saw Metro's domination continue, as similar to the first half they scored the first three goals through Tomo Grgic and a double from Alija. Albert Park's Dan McGrath sparked the game back into life with a shot from a ridiculous angle, but his hard work was cancelled out by Zilic's coolly danced around an advancing Raspudic.

Albert Park did not give up as they continued to press and harass, and they somehow got the score line back to 8-5 through Wade and Kelly who both scored braces. Soon after, any chance of a Metro comeback was erased as Alija completed his hat-trick and Zilic bagged his fourth in what was a dominating display of futsal!

All there was left in the game was a consolation goal from Sam Grosso who was set up by Kelly, who also had a great game for his new side. It was a welcome return for Metro as they returned to their winning ways as for Albert Park they will need to learn to become much tighter in defence if they want to challenge in the NIKE V-League!



OAKLEIGH CANNONS



1

Flying Eagles Shine in the Wet Wet Wet

By Mark Boric

The final AVPL game of the weekend saw Oakleigh host the resurgent Richmond at Jack Edwards Reserve on Sunday evening.

The home side entered the game having defeated Southern Stars in the M'Irabella Cup midweek, but missing Rama Tavsanicoglu and Ari Drakos from the side which lost to Melbourne Knights in their previous AVPL game. With Steve Hatzikostas dropped to the Under 21's and Luke Walker moved to the bench, Bonel Obradovic, Frank Lagana, Dane Milovanovic and Shaun Ontong all came into the starting line-up against the in-form Eagles. Richmond were without the suspended Michael Ferrante, as well as having lost skipper Dimitri Tsiaras through injury for the remainder of the season and Anton Kovacic who has joined Churchill Brothers in the Indian I-League. Devon Bonne and Mate Eterovic were brought into the starting eleven.

With miserable conditions as rain became steadier, and on a pitch in poor condition, the game commenced with both sides quick to show positive signs. In the first minute Ricky Diaco shot wide from just outside the box, before a free-kick from Hayden Doyle wide on the left saw James Robinson produce a great save from Stejpan Gal as his header had to be turned around the post. When a through ball by Nick Marinos to Timmy Purcell was cut out, the ball fell to Michael Catalano who's shot from the edge of the box failed to trouble Peter Zois.

After a Richmond throw-in went to ground on the left, Timmy Purcell pounced on the loose ball to drive it low and hard at goal from thirty-five yards, flashing just wide of the post. Good work with Devon Bonne in his own half allowed Mitch Bissinger to burst down the right, eventually cutting in at the top of the box before shooting wide with the outside of his foot.

In the twentieth minute a cross from Bonne on the right flew just beyond Marinos at the near post. A counter attack after a corner-kick saw Robinson lay the ball inside from the right to Lagana, who was denied by a brilliant save from Gal. Another quick break saw Oakleigh have the numbers over the Richmond defence, with Diaco laying the ball to Craig Goodwin on the left who screwed his shot high and wide of the target.

A cross from Goodwin on the left saw Lagana head just over the cross-bar at the far post in the thirty-fifth minute. The scoring was finally set to be opened in the fourth minute, when Richmond were awarded a penalty after Milovanovic jumped into the back of Marinos as they contested a cross from an overlapping Scott Muirhead. Assuming spot kick duties in the absence of Ferrante, Marinos made no mistake with his conversion to give Richmond the lead. It was a lead they would hold into the half-

time break.

Sitting back on the lead was not the intention of the high-flying Eagles, and when play resumed Muirhead got into the left corner and crossed to Mate Eterovic who flicked the ball wide of goal. A free-kick from wide on the left by Marinos was cleared away after the ball went to ground at the far post. The dangerous Marinos then received a throw-in on the right and ran at the defence, cutting in and shooting just over the bar.

Richmond should have extended their lead in the fifty-fifth minute. A shocking square ball from Jamie Cumming on the right went straight to Marinos, who ran at Milovanovic before squaring the ball back to Catalano his inside. The pass was astray, and though Catalano fought to eventually get a shot in which Zois easily held, Marinos would have been rueing not taking a shot himself.

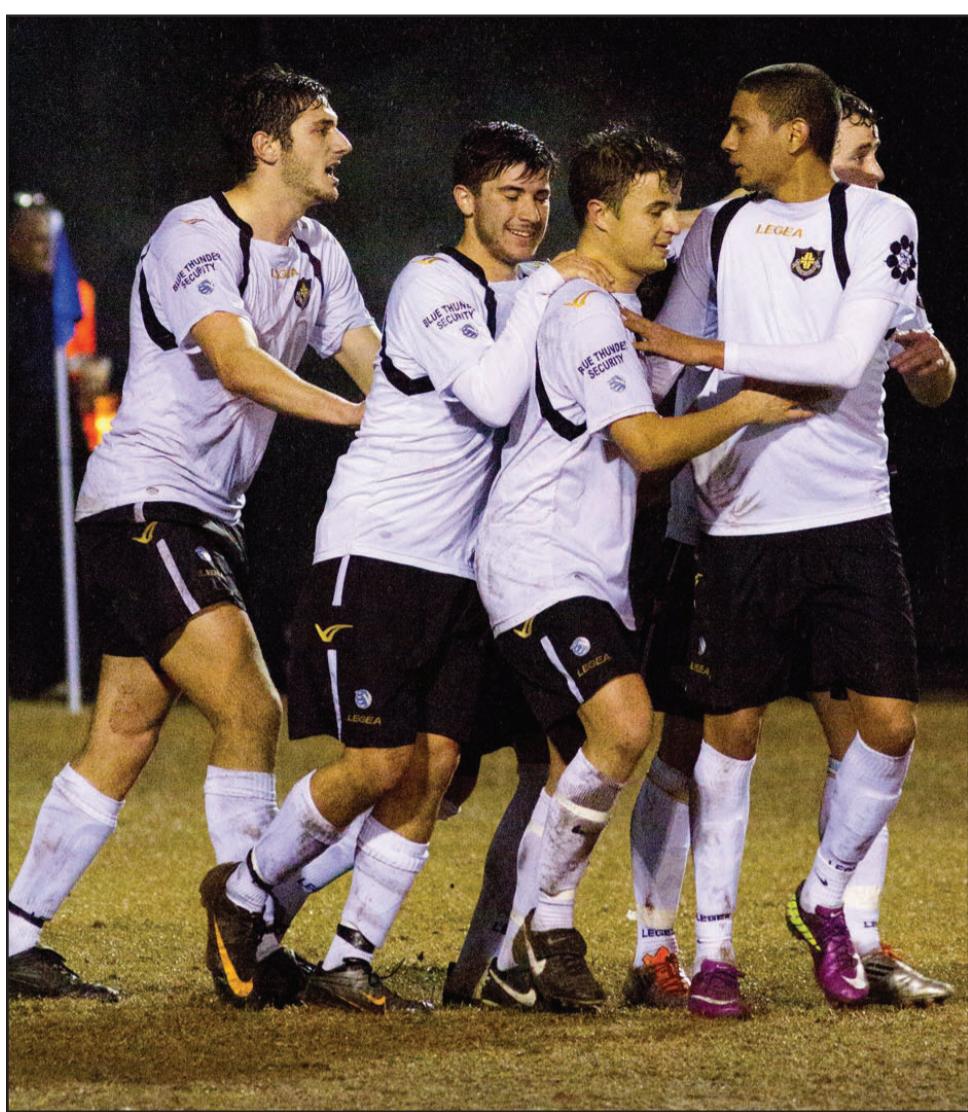
The Cannons soon punished Richmond, as within a minute they drew back on level terms. A free-kick near the halfway line on the left by Doyle was headed back across the goal by Milovanovic at the far post, and Lagana was on hand to head the ball over Gal for the equaliser.

Catalano then found Marinos on the right, who's cross to the near post was flicked across the face of goal by Timmy Purcell. In the sixty-sixth minute a cross from Purcell on the left was deflected into the path of Catalano, who passed to Bonne in space on his right. Bonne gathered the ball and steered it past Zois from outside the box to put the Eagles ahead.

Oakleigh fought back, and just four minutes later had the chance to level scores again from the penalty spot. After a brief melee sparked by Ontong remonstrating after a foul, a free-kick sent to the left saw the ball crossed into the box where Erhan Karahan brought down Robinson as he tried to clear the ball. A sensational dive low to his right saw Gal keep out Diaco's spot-kick and maintain Richmond's lead.

With ten minutes left, a soft turnover saw Purcell try his luck with a chip, which Zois comfortably held on his goal-line. A cross from Bonel Obradovic on the right saw Robinson put a volley over the goal under heavy attention in the box. Into stoppage time teenaged substitute Josh Kweifio-Okai held the ball up well for Richmond before almost playing in Catalano who was thwarted by a smartly advancing Zois. With the full-time whistle following, Richmond celebrated a fourth successive win.

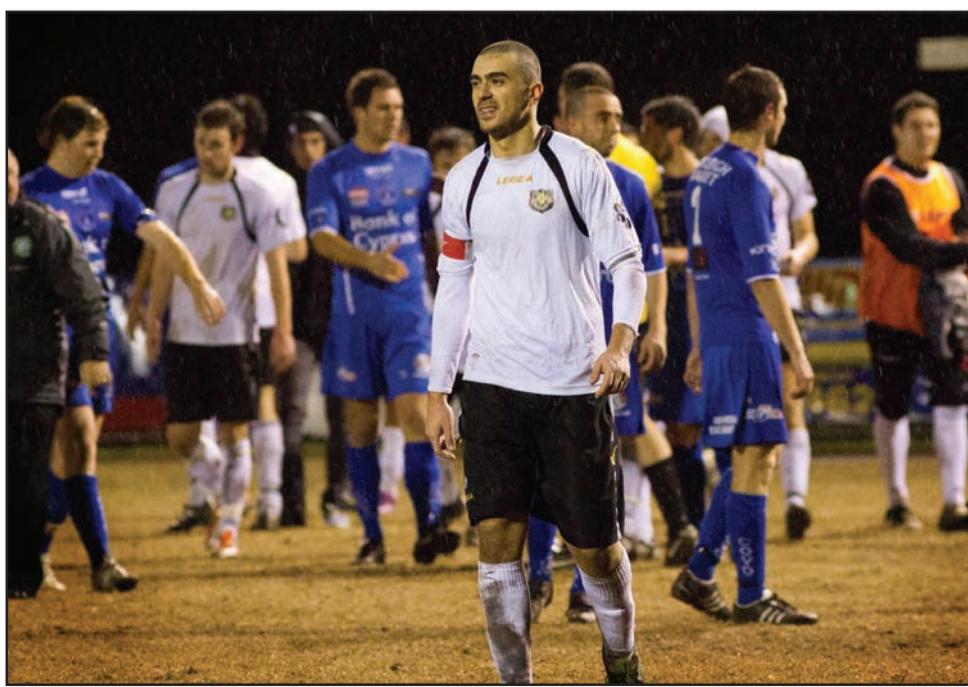
Richmond will meet the VTC Football at Knights Stadium on Wednesday night, ahead of the week's break in the AVPL. They will then host the Melbourne Knights at Kevin Bartlett Reserve on Saturday July 30th. On the same day Oakleigh will visit out of form league leaders Hume City in a game which will help shape the positions in the Top Five leading into the Finals.



The Eagles are still a mathematical chance of making the finals and ruffling up a few feathers.
Photo: ANITA MILAS



Richmond's Devon Bonne shoots a second goal in the 66'. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Richmond are flying high after Devon Bonne's winner. Photo: ANITA MILAS

BENTLEIGH GREENS



2

DANDENONG THUNDER



1

Match Details

Bentleigh Greens:

Gavalas, P., Gwyther, M., Bulloch, S. (Lolios, B. 88'), Rojas, A., (Ferns, C. 90'), Fadiljevc, A., Wilford, A., Webster, J., Pilkington, L., Devries, R., Wallace, W. Cariel, M. (Calderone, J. 60')

Scorer: De Vries 51', 73')

Dandenong Thunder:

Webster, Stuart; Webster, Scott; Rexhepi, S. (Adili, A. 90'), Harrison, B., Sabinovski, D., Gray, S. (Korcar V. 90'), Azizi, F., Kearney, L., Barnes, J., Sherbon, L. (Masinovic, H. 76'), Stott, A.

Scorer: Azizi 23'

De Vries Shoots Greens into Top Five

By George Stogiannou

For the second week in a row, fleet footed Bentleigh Greens striker Ryan De Vries scored a brace to spur the Greens to an all-important 2-1 win. Friday night's win over Dandenong Thunder, puts the Greens into the five after a run of five wins in its last seven matches.

The result gives the home side a real chance of finals' football whilst for Dandenong its trajectory in the second half of the season, has been almost the opposite. Its dominant first half of the season seems a distant memory as it slips further from the five and its injury toll continues to mount.

On Friday night, for the first half at least, the visiting Thunder supporters continued to believe in the possibility of finals, after watching their makeshift team weather the early Greens assault and then take a 23rd minute lead after one of the youth players, midfielder Feston Azizi sweetly struck a first time left foot drive from 20 metres past a diving Greens keeper, Peter Gavalas.

The goal lifted the visitors' confidence as they more than held their own for the rest of the half, although Ryan De Vries, playing on the left side of a three-pronged attack was creating problems for the Thunder defence.

Soon after the break, De Vries delivered on his threat in the first half, streaking past opposing full back Scott Webster and cutting the ball back into a crowded goalmouth before pouncing on the loose rebound to tap home an equalizer from close range in the 51st minute.

He followed up in the 73rd minute when he pounced on a mistake in the centre of the Thunder defence, raced beyond the back four, carrying the ball forward 10 metres before shooting truly past Thunder keeper Stuart Webster for the winning goal of the game.

Thunder's scoreboard woes were compounded by the loss of key players to injury including player-coach Steven Gray, Luke Sherbon and Shane Rexhepi who were all forced off in the second half. The unavailability of regular midfielders Acim Tomic and Matthew Theodore meant the Thunder fielded four youth team players on the night.

For the rest of Friday's match, Dandenong rarely troubled Gavalas in the Greens goal, whilst at the other end De Vries created excellent chances for teammates Scott Bulloch and Michael Gwyther but Thunder keeper Webster was equal to the task, keeping out Bulloch's shot whilst Gwyther blasted his effort off target.

After the match Thunder player-coach Steven Gray commented on the game and the growing injury list. "The lads gave me everything. We tried our best. It just wasn't our night I can't complain too much about the result to tell you the truth. It's not as if their keeper made a lot of saves."

Gray, who continues to defy medical advice not to play after sustaining a terrible mouth injury against Northcote recently, was eventually forced off the park because of his injury on Friday along with Sherbon and Rexhepi.

"A game of football I want to win more than anyone. But I'm not going to jeopardize the health of the players. Young Sherbs (Sherbon) is such a brave, honest lad, his knee is weak and vulnerable. If he got half a bad tackle he could be in serious trouble. Rexhi now is struggling. He's so honest He's done his hamstring. He probably should have come off before. So he's in a bit of trouble. I'm in trouble obviously. So we have the young lads there. They're capable of settling in so maybe they deserve a chance with the first team. It gives us the opportunity to see what's coming up."

For Bentleigh Greens coach John Anastasiadis, the factors which made a difference between the two teams on the night were, "Our fitness, the fact that it was the third game in a week for them, and we had a lot to play for. The boys stepped it up tonight."

He doesn't believe there is an over reliance on De Vries. Whilst acknowledging his talent, he says "Everyone in the team has done their bit (in getting the results).... But there's no doubt that some of the other boys have to start scoring goals... The winning score should have been more tonight."

Next weekend Thunder play a catch up game against Melbourne Knights, whilst the Greens next match is the following week away to Northcote City.



Ryan De Vries hurdles Shane Rexhepi's tackle on a cold and misty Melbourne winter's night. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Aron Wilford narrowly escapes the clutches of Ashley Stott.
Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Thunder keeper Stuart Webster comes off his line to deny Scott Bulloch a shot at goal. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

MELBOURNE
KNIGHTS

4

Rampant Knights Sink The Saints

By Andrew Fisher

A Jacob Colosimo inspired Melbourne Knights have crushed local rivals, and State One bound St Albans Saints 4-1 at Knights Stadium on Sunday Evening.

The Saints sitting second from bottom, began the match in the worst possible fashion due to a goalkeeping error from Steven Pavlovic. A tame header from Jacob Colosimo looped up and looked to have been easily caught by the goalkeeper, until the crossbar got into the way and knocked the ball out of Pavlovic's hands and straight to the feet of Jacob Colosimo who couldn't believe his luck, knocking the ball home from two yards out.

The Saints best chance of finding an equaliser in the first half, fell to their captain Maks Cuze. Rising highest and unmarked from a Reardo cross he could only header his powerful shot just over the bar.

Despite these early chances, there was little else in terms of opportunities in what was otherwise a dull opening half.

However the second stanza was much more entertaining for the decent size crowd that turned out at Knights Stadium. The Saints pushed early for an equalizer and perhaps should have got it in the 47th minute. Daniel Visevic found himself with time and space inside the penalty box, only to see his shot superbly saved by a despairing Martin John, Matthew Demo came in for a second effort but could only hit his effort well over the bar.

The heavens opened early in the second half, and the Knights burst the floodgates right open scoring three goals in the space of five minutes to kill the contest. Jacob Colosimo's excellent first touch got him past his marker, before supplying Magdic with the opportunity to

finish from a tight angle. Magdic wasted no time in returning the favour, and just two minutes later he skipped past two defenders and set up Jacob for the easiest of finishes. Another three minutes past and Jacob Colosimo again with the assist, this time supplying Kayne Vincent with the opportunity to score past a helpless Pavlovic in the visitors goal.

Despite the score line, credit must be given to the Saints who continued to push and search for a consolation goal. Liam Cannell tried his luck and drew a save from Martin John with a long range free-kick.

St Albans did finally get their consolation goal that they duly deserved in the 84th minute, Loius Fenton beat the offside trap and kept his cool to round Martin John and slot the ball home into an empty net. This goal lifted the visitors confidence who quickly went searching for another, Matthew Demo was blocked by Leo Shin after some exciting build up play from the Saints midfield, whilst Neven Antic saw his close range header saved by John.

Jacob Colosimo almost got his hat-trick in the final moments of the game, but couldn't get his shot past an on-rushing Pavlovic.

The win means the Knights have won five of their past seven matches, and go into their catch up game against Dandenong next Saturday at George Andrews Reserve full of confidence. Whilst the Saints will have a week off, before paying a visit to the Olympic Village to face Heidelberg United.

Melbourne Knights will also face Cobram Victory in the Mirabella Cup next Wednesday 27th July at Knights Stadium at 8pm. In the Under 21's Melbourne Knights defeated St Albans 4-0.



Joe Magdic and Daniel Visevic battle it out in the middle of the park for derby day honours. Photo: STEVE STAREK



Man of the Match Jacob Colosimo bags a brace in the local derby as Saints keeper Stefan Pavlovic is exposed. Photo:STEVE STAREK



Croatian House winners: Knights captain Josip Kozic accepts the award from former Socceroo Ante Juric. Photo: STEVE STAREK



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SOUTH MELBOURNE



3

HUME CITY



1

Match Details

Goal Scorers:

1-0: Daniel Dragicevic (13')
 2-0: Sebastian Petrovic (24')
 3-0: Jesse Krnceanic (51')
 3-1: Pece Siveski (81')

South Melbourne Fc:

21. Zaim Zeneli (Gk), 3. Rhodri Payne, 5. Daniel Vasilevski, 6. Steven Topalovic, 8. Carl Recchia, 11. Jesse Krnceanic, 15. Fernando De Moraes, 16. Trent Waterson, 17. Steven Weir, 20. Daniel Dragicevic (25. Kyle Joryeff), 23. Sebastian Petrovic

Hume City:

1. Lupce Acevski (Gk) (18). Kenny Gerochristodoulou, 22. Phil Riccobene, 6. Serdar Pir, 7. Isi Erdogan, 5. StevEn Pace, 19. S Bozinovski, 12. Richie Cardozo, 15. Zoran Petrevski, 11. Andy Vlahos, 21. Dusko Delic, 10. Pece Siveski
 Other Subs: 3. Fabio Dilizia, 4. Mark Pistinini, 25. Atilla Ofli, 2. A.Nakic

Man Of The Match:

Jesse Krnceanic
 (South Melbourne)
 Venue: John Cain Memorial Park
 Date: Sunday 17 July 2011

South throws the form book out the window

By John Kyrou

South Melbourne FC crept closer to securing a finals spot in the 2011 Victorian Premier League following an emphatic 3-1 victory against League leaders Hume City on Sunday afternoon at John Cain Memorial Park.

South went into the match knowing that it simply had to win against high-flying Hume in order to keep ahead of the chasing pack in Bentleigh, Heidelberg, Green Gully, Northcote City and Dandenong. With all teams within only a few points of each other, a slip-up by any team could have meant starting the round in the top five but ending it as low as seventh.

The home side started the match with a real point to prove and deservedly opened the scoring when Daniel Dragicevic snuck in at the back post unmarked to fire Rhodri Payne's cross across Hume goalkeeper Lupce Acevski and into the goal for his first goal for South.

The game was blown open ten minutes later in a minute of madness that saw a goal and a red card. Daniel Vasilevski expertly hit his corner to the penalty spot where Sebastian Petrovic met the ball and fired a header past Acevski. The goalkeeper then booted the ball away before receiving a straight red card from the referee for apparent verbal dissent. Hume was lucky not to have another man sent off when Steven Pace elbowed Dragicevic in the face and only received a caution.

South made sure of the three points early in the second half when Steven Weir's free kick deflected off Hume's wall before landing for Jesse Krnceanic to shoot past substitute goalkeeper Kenny Gerochristodoulou. With a three goal advantage and a one man advantage, South created so many more chances to increase their lead but could not add to their tally despite going close numerous times.

With under ten minutes to go, Hume pulled back a consolation goal through substitute Pece Siveski, who got in between Carl Recchia and Trent Waterson and headed past Zaim Zeneli to give the visiting team something to



South Melbourne's Sebastian Petrovic makes it 2-0 after 24 minutes and the league leaders Hume City have their foundations rocked. Photo: CINDY NITSOS

cheer about.

After the game Jesse Krnceanic commented that "it was great to be back playing... I linked up well with Steven Weir up front and hopefully we can continue this partnership against Dandenong and Northcote in the last two games."

In further great news, the Under 21s defeated Hume 1-0 through a goal to Robert Naumovski to overtake Hume in top spot on the Under 21 League table with two games to go. Coach Gus Caminos commented that "we've done the hard work to get to top spot but now we need to hold onto it with two games to go."

Both sides have a break in League action next week for the VPL catch-up round and resume their League seasons the following week. South travels to Dandenong on Saturday 30 July to play Dandenong Thunder and on the same afternoon Hume hosts Oakleigh Cannons at Broadmeadows Valley Park. Both matches kick off at 15:00.



Hume keeper Loui Acevski tries to clear over Slave Bozinovski as South Melbourne's Jesse Krnceanic throws himself in the mixer. Photo: CINDY NITSOS



With their season hung in the balance South Melbourne answer their critics in fine style in a fiery encounter with an in form Hume City. Photo: CINDY NITSOS



Steven Weir tries to steer clear of Slave Bozinovski and Pece Siveski. Photo: CINDY NITSOS

SPRINGVALE W EAGLES



1

NORTHCOTE CITY



5

Match Details

Springvale White Eagles

1 (Goran Zoric 68') - Northcote City 5 (Trent Rixson 35', Dean Piemonte 70', James Kalifatidis 76', Gianni Denittis 78' & 79').
 Venue: White Eagles Stadium - Kesborough. Crowd: 200. Match Official: Hakan Anaz.

SPRINGVALE WHITE EAGLES:

1. Bojo Jevdjevic, 2. Vojislav Milojevic (9. Harry Kapsalis 84), 4. Boris Bajic, 10. Colin Woods, 12. Dusan Nikolic (c), 16. Dominic D'Angelo, 17 Zoran Vukas, 19. Goran Zoric, 21. Dejan Erakovic (20. Alp Camuzscu 83), 22. Daniel Paunov, 24. Lewis Karanikolas.
 Coach: Bojo Jevdjevic.

NORTHCOTE CITY:

1. Charles Treacy, 2. Adrian Chiappetta, 3. Kristian Konstandinits, 7. Jonathan Vovlgaris, 8. Nicholas Curtis (10. Glen Kinigopoulos 79), 9. Trent Rixon (17. Gianni Denittis 76), 12. Hayden D'Agostino, 16. Paul Savio, 18. James Kalifatidis (5. Nick Tzoulis 84), 19. Dean Piemonte, 23. Jason Trifiro.
 Coach: Peter Tsolakis.

High Five Hercules as Finals Beckon

By Gordon Bennett

Northcote City have defeated Springvale White Eagles 5-1 at White Eagles Stadium on Sunday.

A clinical display by Northcote City means they are still a serious candidate for finals football as the VPL heads towards its final two rounds of the season.

Already relegated to the Victorian State League Division One after only one season in the VPL, the Springvale White Eagles had nothing much to play for except pride, but were unable to avoid registering their 14th loss in a dismal afternoon of a woeful campaign. Only a goal difference of 3 goals saves them from occupying bottom spot from the VTC.

Coming off a testing 2-1 Mirabella Cup mid-week win against SL1 promotion hopefuls Port Melbourne, Northcote City picked up where it left off and produced a demolition job worthy of a team destined for finals football.

With both teams adopting an open manner towards play this fixture always held the promise of plenty of goals.

Northcote's Trent Rixon tormented the White Eagles defence for much of the afternoon and travelling fans didn't have to wait too long before he capitalised on a golden opportunity to convert from close range just after the half hour mark.

White Eagles gave as good as it got for the most of the opening periods of the match and could count themselves unlucky not to have broken the deadlock themselves.

Midway through the second half Springvale White Eagles were rewarded for their efforts when Goran Zoric pulled the

home back onto level terms after showing his predatory instincts to pounce on a stray ball in the box.

Almost immediately Northcote replied through Dean Piemonte to put the visitors back in front and take the wind out of Springvale's sails.

Thereafter Northcote took control of the match and extended its lead in the 75th minute to make it 3-1 when James Kalifatidis scored a pearler from almost 30 yards out, planting the ball into the top left hand corner of the net leaving player-coach Bojo Jevdjevic helplessly stranded in goals.

Northcote City could sense the match with truly theirs for the taking and equipped with momentum it continued to dismantle the White Eagles defence.

Within a couple of minutes Gianni Denittis got in on the act after coming on as a substitute and scored his first goal in Northcote colours to make the score 4-1.

When it rains it pours as they say, and no sooner had Denittis celebrated his first goal he then proceeded to double his tally in the space of 10 minutes by putting the icing on the cake with a late strike from just outside the box with only minutes left on the clock.

The teams now take a break and resume again in a couple of weeks when White Eagle travel to Green Gully, and Northcote hosts Bentleigh Greens in a crunching encounter as both teams chase a finals spot.

In other news Springvale White Eagles will play a friendly with Melbourne Victory on Wednesday 24th August at White Eagles Stadium.



Northcote's Dean Piemonte hits the onion bag. Photo: PETER PSARROS



James Kalifatidis tries to escape the attention of Daniel Paunov.

Photo: PETER PSARROS



Bojo Jevdjevic is at full stretch but can't stop James Kalifatidis' pearler.

Photo: PETER PSARROS

HEIDELBERG UNITED



0

Scoreless Stalemate Fails to Satisfy

By John Fotinos

Heidelberg United hosted rivals & fellow top five aspirant Green Gully for the second time in five days at the Olympic Village in this afternoon's Alanic VPL Round 20 match.

The hosts would have been hoping to exact some revenge following Gully's 3-0 Mirabella Cup win earlier in the week. On the other hand, the visitors would have gone into the game very confident of a repeat result, thus ensuring it a spot in the top five.

Overcast & gusty conditions were on hand for the match, which it must be said, failed to reach any great heights. In the early stages, despite the dominance of Hockless & Fleming in midfield, Green Gully could not find a way through a resolute Heidelberg defence, ably led by centrebacks Elvin & Byles.

The first half-chance came the way of Green Gully, when a Hockless free kick in the 23rd minute drifted into the penalty area & was deflected wide by Byles. From the resultant corner, a bobbling ball was desperately cleared by Heidelberg's Doumbalis. Just three minutes later, at the other end, a Heidelberg corner saw Armenian head the ball just wide.

Shortly after the half hour mark, Green Gully missed opportunities to take the lead. Storey played in Hockless, whose shot was blocked by a lunging Byles. With the loose ball spilling to Sanders, seemingly with the goal at his mercy, his first attempt was scuffed & then a second effort was beaten away by Rhys Keane.

With Gully now well on top, a superb Hockless ball played in Vargas, but the veteran Gully midfielder was thwarted when Keane was again on hand to superbly smother the low shot.

Heidelberg was forced to rely on individual efforts, and its best came via a volley by Christodoulou from 25 metres that was just wide of the mark.

The second half of play began in much the same fashion as the first, with Green Gully enjoying the bulk of possession, but unable to carve out many real chances until the 65th minute. After Kerr had made a strong run down the left, his cut back pass found Hockless. The diminutive midfielder's low shot from close range was brilliantly stopped by Keane, who by this stage had made three such saves to deny Gully.



Goalmouth action as Heidelberg United pile the pressure on the Green Gully. Goalkeeper Nikola Roganovic stands his ground whilst Graham Hockless guards the net. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Andy Vargas shows his might and ploughs through the centre of the park. Photo:DANIEL FLIS

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS	0
	0

Match Details

Heidelberg United line-up:

1. Rhys KEANE, 3. Les DOUMBALIS, 14. Craig ELVIN, 13. Luke BYLES, 16. Steve MARTIN, 7. Hamlet ARMENIAN (19. Dennis ALILOVIC 69'), 2. Yarred HAILEMELKOT, 11. Evan CHRISTODOULOU, 8. Andrew NABBOUT, 18. Osagie EDERARO, 9. Shaun McILROY (17. Jason SAMARGIS 87')

Substitutes Not Used: 32. Jason KOUTSODONTIS, 5. David CORDEMORE

Yellow Cards: Nil

Green Gully line-up:

1. Nikola ROGANOVIC, 2. Daniel JONES, 3. Dean KERR, 4. Cameron DRAKE, 7. Jeffrey FLEMING, 8. Jason HAYNE, 10. Graham HOCKLESS, 12. Matthew SANDERS (11. Pasquale VIZZARI 83'), 14. Simon STOREY, 16. Mile MEDJEDOVIC, 17. Andy VARGAS (18. Joel NIKOLIC 83')

Substitutes Not Used: 23. Mason INTERLANDI, 6. Stephen DOWNES, 20. Josh PUGH

Yellow Cards: Jason HAYNE 59'

Player of the Match:
Graham HOCKLESS
(Green Gully)

Crowd: Approx. 400 at the Olympic Village

WINTER

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Alanic VPL Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Hume City	22	12	6	4	46	26	42
South Melbourne	22	11	4	7	35	30	37
Oakleigh Cannons	21	11	3	7	36	28	36
Bentleigh Greens	22	10	6	6	34	26	36
Heidelberg Utd	21	10	7	4	41	20	34
Green Gully Cavaliers	21	10	4	7	40	23	34
Northcote City	21	09	5	7	49	34	32
Dandenong Thunder	21	11	4	6	39	26	31
Richmond Eagles	21	09	3	9	29	36	30
Melbourne Knights	21	07	7	7	34	27	28
St Albans Saints	21	03	3	15	25	51	12
Springvale White Eagles	22	02	6	14	21	59	12
VTC Football	20	04	0	16	22	65	12

Alanic VPL Round 21

**Wed 27 Jul 8:30PM Green Gully
Cavaliers v N.T.C Green Gully Re-
serve**

Sat 30 Jul 3:00PM Richmond Eagles v Melbourne Knights Kevin Bartlett Reserve

Sat 30 Jul 3:00PM Green Gully
Cavalier v Springvale White Eagles
Green Gully Reserve

Sat 30 Jul 3:00PM Northcote City v
Bentleigh Greens John Cain Memo-
rial

Sat 30 Jul 3:00PM Dandenong
Thunder v South Melbourne
George Andrews Reserve

Sat 30 Jul 3:00PM Hume City v
Oakleigh Cannons Broadmeadows
Valley Park

**Sun 31 Jul 3:00PM Heidelberg Utd
v St Albans Saints Olympic Park
(Village)**

Under 21s

	P	W	D	L	F	GA	GD	Pt
South Melbourne	22	14	4	4	45	24	46	
Hume City	22	14	3	5	61	26	45	
Melbourne Knights	22	13	5	4	64	28	44	
Oakleigh Cannons	19	11	4	5	50	30	37	
Green Gully Cavaliers	21	10	5	6	38	29	35	
Northcote City	20	9	3	8	40	34	30	
Heidelberg Utd	20	8	3	9	35	37	27	
VTC Football	19	8	1	10	38	45	25	
Richmond	20	8	1	11	35	56	25	
Dandenong Thunder	22	7	3	12	35	46	24	
Bentleigh Greens	22	6	4	12	41	53	22	
Springvale White Eagles	22	5	1	16	31	76	16	
St Albans Saints	21	2	5	14	25	54	8	
Bentleigh Greens	4							
Dandenong Thunder	0							
South Melbourne	1							
Hume City	0							
Melbourne Knights	4							
St Albans Saints	0							
Springvale White Eagles								
Northcote City	7							
Heidelberg Utd	0							
Green Gully Cavaliers	1							

Men's Metropolitan League & Women's Weekend Scoreboard

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